

Gc
974.701
Sch6r
1344986

GENEALOGY COLLECTION



3 1833 01150 1126



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015

—1713.—

NY STATE
LIBRARY
ALBANY

HISTORY

—OF—

Schoharie County,

NEW YORK,

WITH

Illustrations and Biographical Sketches

OF

SOME OF ITS PROMINENT MEN AND PIONEERS.

By WILLIAM E. POSCOE.

Published by D. MASON & CO.,

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

—1882.—

1344986

Reproduced by
DUOPAGE PROCESS
in the
U.S. of America

Micro Photo Division
Bell & Howell Company
Cleveland 12, Ohio

STAT. Y. M.
Y. M. S. B. L.
Y. M. A. B. L. A.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.:
TRUAIR, SMITH & BRUCE,
PRINTERS AND BINDERS.
1882.

CONTENTS.

| | PAGE. | | PAGE. |
|--|-------|--|-------|
| CHAPTER I. —The Germans—Cause of their Leaving Germany—Palatine Tenants—Kocherthal's Petition—First Immigration Agents sent to Germany—Hunter's Petition—Report of Board of Trade Favorable to Immigration—Robert Hunter Appointed Superintendent of Immigration—His Letter of Arrival at New York—Appointed Governor—Action of the City Council—German Children Apprenticed—Settlement at the "Camps"—Number of Settlers—Trouble Experienced—Discontent of Germans—Meetings Held—Lord Clarendon's Letter—Expedition to Canada—Germans Petition to the King..... | 9 | CHAPTER III.—CONTINUED. to Mohawk—Seths Henry at "Turloch"—Dockstader at Currytown and Sharon—Willett—Seths Henry at Fox's Creek—Crysler at Vromansland in 1781—Captain Hager's Fight at the Lake—Campbell's and Simms' Labors—Returned Tories and Indians—Muster Roll of 1777—Schoharie Supplies Division of Albany County—Inundation of the Schoharie River | 35 |
| CHAPTER II. —The Foregoing Chapter Reviewed—Expense of the Germans—Located at Schoharie—Their Hardships—Judge Brown's Account—Fight—Indians of what Tribe—Hunting Grounds—Ka-rig-hon-don-tee the Chief—Sale of Lands by Gov. Hunter—Schuyler and Coeymans' Purchase—Gov. Hunter's Defense to the Board of Trade—Bayard's Visit to Schoharie—Resumed Lands—Sheriff Adams—Adam Vroman—The Germans Trespass upon Him—His Letter to Gov. Hunter—Weiser in England—Confined in the Tower—Clark's Letter—Jeremy Long's Council for the Germans—Purchase of Lands in 1719—Location of Weiser's Dorf—Other Dorfs—Spread of Settlements—Mode of Living—Implements—Negro Slaves and Customs—Indians—Their Petition—Number of them in Schoharie—Military Affairs—Division of Albany County—Early Officials | 21 | CHAPTER IV. —Formation of County—The Name of Schoharie—Population—Boundaries—Surface—The Schoharie and Tributaries—Inundations—Lakes—Formation of Towns—First County Officers—First Court House—Poorhouse—Paupers—County's Progress—War of 1812—Delegates to State Convention—Governor Bouck's Message—Sourkrout Message—Anti-Rent War—Railroads—Plank Roads—Seminary—Mania—Susquehanna Railroad—Schoharie Valley—Sharon and Cherry Valley—Howe's Cave Enterprises—Mineral Springs—Education—Religion—Temperance—Sabbath School Societies—Bible Society—Masonic Lodges—Agricultural and Medical Societies—Telephone Lines—Newspapers—Criminal List—Summary of Facts—Population by Census of 1880..... | 56 |
| CHAPTER III. —Loyalty of Germans to Britain—Sacredness of their Oath—Mohawks and Tomahawks—First Committee of Safety—Military District and Officers—Events of 1777—Division of Schoharie—McDonald's Invasion—The Harpers—Adam Crysler—Skirmish at Oriskany—Bemis Heights—Building of Forts—Battle of Cobleskill—Morgan's Corps—Johnson and Brant's Invasion at Middle Fort—Lower Fort—Incidents—Brave Women—Colonel Vroman's March | | CHAPTER V. —Civil War—The Year 1861—Captain Snyder—Volunteers first Recruiting—Colonel Mix and Comrades—The 76th Regiment—Members—134th—Members of Companies—The 44th—Members—Members of other Regiments—Colored Volunteers—Hero Martyrs... | 86 |
| | | CHAPTER VI. —Schoharie County Civil List—Judges of Common Pleas—Assistant Judges—Session Justices—Surrogates—District Attorneys—County Clerks—Sheriffs—Treasurers—Superintendents of Poor—School Commissioners—Loan Commissioners—Excise—Inspectors—Governor—Treasurers—Adjutant General—Canal Commissioners—Canal Appraisers—Curator of State Library—Legislature—Senators—Congress—Presidential Electors—Consuls | 102 |

174501

44280

| | PAGE. | | PAGE. |
|--|-------|---|-------|
| CHAPTER VII.—History of the Town of Gilboa | | CHAPTER XI—CONTINUED. | |
| —Town Formed—First Town Officers | | Murphy's Own Statement—Murphy's | |
| —Board of Inspectors—Division into | | Purchase—Act of 1777—Abraham | |
| Districts—Town Meeting of 1849— | | Becker—Suit Gained—Service's Affair | |
| Anti-Rent Difficulties—Sheriff's Posse | | Contemplated—Settlement of the West- | |
| of Soldiers—First Settlers and Mills— | | ern Part of the Town—Seminary—Its | |
| John Dise—Archibald Crosswell—Tan- | | History—Faculty, etc—Dairy Interest | |
| nery—Tuttle & Osborne Tannery— | | —Elisha Brown—Assemblymen—Sher- | |
| Grist Mill Purchased by Platt, Potter & | | iffs—John Lawyer—S. J. Lake—Isaac | |
| Co.—Cotton Factory—Luman Reed— | | W. Beard—John H. Coons—Churches | |
| First Tavern—Gilboa Bridge—Furnace | | —First Baptist Church—Second Baptist | |
| —Churches—Merchants—Broome Cen- | | Church—Reformed Church of Eminence | |
| tre—Henry Tibbetts—McKeys Corners | | —Methodist—Free Methodist—Luth- | |
| —David Ellerson—His Narrative—Offi- | | eran of Lutheranville—Lutheran of | |
| cial List—Supervisors—District Attor- | | Beard's Hollow—Town Volunteers— | |
| ney—County Clerk—Assembly—State | | Medical Fraternity—First Town Meet- | |
| Senator—Boundaries..... | 119 | ing—Resolutions—Report of 1880— | |
| CHAPTER VIII.—History of the Town of Cones- | | Officials—Eminence..... | 153 |
| ville—Scenery—Manorkill Falls—Stry- | | CHAPTER XIII—History of the Town of Ful- | |
| ker Prothers' Tannery—Stevens' Mill— | | ton—First Purchase of Land by Adam | |
| Colby Reed—The First Store—Hunting | | Vroman—Adam Vroman and Family— | |
| Grounds—Indian Relics—Dise Purchase | | Indian Deeds—Captain Vroman—In- | |
| of Land—Ury Richtmyer—The Dise | | Indian Castle—Colonel Peter Vroman— | |
| Sons—Litigation—Peter Richtmyer— | | Swart Family—Peter Swart—His Man- | |
| His Capture by Indians—Escape—Re- | | uscript—Death—Crysler Family—Mrs. | |
| building of His House—He Opens an | | John Bouck—Henry Hager—In Mc- | |
| Inn—Humphrey's—Additional Settlers | | Donald's Camp—Captain Hager at | |
| —Dairying—Prominent Settlers—Town | | Benis Heights—Upper Fort—Exempt | |
| Formed—Boundaries—Jonathan Cone | | Volunteers—Invasion by Crysler—Mur- | |
| —Town Records..... | 129 | der by Bearcraft—Prisoners—Crysler's | |
| CHAPTER IX.—History of the Town of Broome | | Invasion—Murder near the Fort—En- | |
| —When Formed—Name Changed— | | gagement with Captain Hager—Richard | |
| Catskill Creek—Indian Trail—General | | Hagadorn Wounded—Conflict at the | |
| Aspect—First Settlers—Daniel Shays— | | Lake—Johnson's and Brant's Invasion | |
| His Life—Rebellion and Death—David | | —Mary Hagadorn—Bouck Family and | |
| Williams—His Life—Incidents Relat- | | Island—Wm. C. Bouck—His Life— | |
| ing to Capture of Andre—Livingston- | | Inhabitants of 1788—Timothy Murphy | |
| ville—Asa Starkweather—His Argu- | | —His Life and Historical Incidents— | |
| ment in Convention—Death—Adam | | Town Formed—Patriotism of 1812— | |
| Mattice—Presbyterian Church—Meth- | | Petersburgh—Breakabeen—First Lands | |
| odist Church—Draft of 1813—Smithton | | Settled—Fultonham—Charles Watson | |
| —Hubbard's—The Fly—Supervisors— | | —West Fulton—Churches—Polly Hol- | |
| Bounds..... | 133 | low—Reformed Church—Physicians— | |
| CHAPTER X—History of the Town of Jeffer- | | Supervisors—Boundaries..... | 166 |
| son—When Settled—By Whom—Inter- | | CHAPTER XIV.—History of the Town of | |
| est in Education—First Town Meeting | | Middleburgh—Weiser's Dorf—Conrad | |
| —Effort to Change the Name of Town | | Weiser—His Daughter—John Peter | |
| —Heman Hickok—Jefferson Academy | | G. Muhlenberg—Conrad Weiser, Jr.— | |
| —Donators—Stephen Judd's Donation | | Settlers of the Dorf—Relics of the Past | |
| of Farm—Teachers in Academy—Pres- | | —Reformed Church—Its Early History | |
| ent School—Tanneries—Presbyterian | | —Ednee Rebuilt in 1785—Petition to | |
| Church—Merchants—Physicians—Judd | | Assembly—Pastors' Reformed Church | |
| Family—Societies—Masonic—Grand | | —Lutheran Church—Methodist—Epi- | |
| Army Republic—Methodist Church— | | scopal—The True Reformed Church— | |
| West Kill Methodist Church—Galt's | | Middle Fort—Description—Ziche Fam- | |
| History of the Methodist Society of | | ily—Colonel Ziche—His Children— | |
| the Town—Revolutionary Incidents— | | Peter Swart—Low Dutch Beckers— | |
| Smith Street—Tory Clawson—Taken | | Borst Family—Grist Mills—Louck's | |
| Prisoner—Smith Family—Battle at | | Family—Eckersman's—First Merchant— | |
| Lake—Official—Supervisors—General | | Grist Mill—Bellinger Family—Hart- | |
| Appearance of Town—The Lake— | | man's Dorf—Richtmyer Family—Alex- | |
| Tryon County Line—Rebellion— | | ander Boyd—J. M. Scribner—John | |
| Amount of Town Bonds Issued— | | Hinman—Nathan Hinman—Jonathn | |
| Boundaries..... | 142 | Danforth—Aichinson House—Freem- | |
| CHAPTER XI—History of the Town of Summit | | ing House—Merchants—Freeman Stan- | |
| —Hon. Seymour Boughton—The Lake | | —John P. Bellinger—D. D. Dodge— | |
| —Johnson and Brant's Halt—Early | | General Danforth—Physicians—Legat | |
| Settlers—Brown and Other Business Men | | Fraternity—Hon. Lyman Sanford— | |
| —Charlotte Valley—Service Tragedy— | | National Bank—Masonic Lodge—I. G. | |
| | | G. T.—G. A. R. Post—Incorporation— | |
| | | Hunter's Land—Supervisors—Bound- | |
| | | aries..... | 196 |

| | PAGE. |
|--|-------|
| CHAPTER XV.—History of the Town of Sharon | |
| —Formation of New Dorlach—Sharon | |
| —Dorlach Grant—First Settlers—Later | |
| Settlers—Peter Sommers—Meieness | |
| Brothers—William Beckman—Battle of | |
| Sharon—Colonel Marinus Willett—Leem | |
| and Hopper Families—Maria Leem— | |
| Capture of Myndert and Others—Will- | |
| iam Kneiskern—Rev. Peter N. Som- | |
| mers—St. John's Church—Reformed | |
| Church—Turnpikes—Taverns—Beck- | |
| man's Corners—Peter A. Hilton— | |
| Robert Eldredge—Eldredge Family— | |
| Dr. Palmer—Engle's Mill—Leesville— | |
| Dormant Villages—Leesville Lutheran | |
| Church—Leesville Baptist Church— | |
| Cemetery—Rockville—Sharon Springs | |
| —Public Houses—Analysis of Water— | |
| Merchants—Roman Catholic Church— | |
| Sharon Centre—John Beakley—Sharon | |
| Hill and Hollow—E. S. Wales—Zach- | |
| ariah Keyes—Killing of Van Schaik— | |
| Johannes Loucks—William Davenport | |
| —Lemuel Cross—Kling Settlement— | |
| Slate Hill Cemetery—Bellenger Family | |
| —Van Valkenburghs—Gilbert's Cor- | |
| ners—Reformed Church of Sharon— | |
| Masonic Lodge—Officials—Boundaries | 226 |
| CHAPTER XVI.—History of the Town of Blenheim | 249 |
| CHAPTER XVII.—History of the Town of Seward | |
| —Town Formed—Peter Hynds | |
| —Henry Haines—First Grist Mill— | |
| Capture of the Hynds Family—The | |
| Crysler Brothers—Invasion of Seths | |
| Henry—Murder of Michael Merckley | |
| —Murder of Catharine and Sebastian | |
| France—Frederick Merckley's Family | |
| —France Family—John Rice—First | |
| Meeting House—Murder of Mr. and | |
| Mrs. Hoffman—Rhinebeck Church— | |
| Henry Moeller and Other Pastors— | |
| First Settlers of Rhinebeck—Strobeck | |
| —Hyndsville—Seward Valley—Seward | |
| Station—Gardnersville—Rev. Philip | |
| Wieting—Colonel Willett's Raids— | |
| Mills—Business Interests—Churches— | |
| Dairy Interests—Physicians—Town | |
| Bonds—Supervisors—Boundaries | 268 |
| CHAPTER XVIII.—History of the Town of Richmondville | |
| —Formation of Town—First Settlement— | |
| George Warner—John Zea and Family—Captain Snyder | |
| —His Life—Snyder Family—Warner- | |
| ville—George Mann—Warnerville Meth- | |
| odist Church—Christian Church—Sem- | |
| inary—First Tavern—John Warner— | |
| First Justice of the Peace—Hon. John | |
| Westover—Physicians—Churches— | |
| Methodist, Lutheran and Christian— | |
| Seminary—Richmondville Bank— | |
| Newspapers—School at West Rich- | |
| mondville—Supervisors—Present Busi- | |
| ness of Town | 283 |
| CHAPTER XIX.—History of the Town of Carlisle | |
| —First Settlers—Dorlach Grant— | |
| New Rhinebeck—Mrs. Philip Karker | |
| —Judge Brown—George William Brown | |
| Young Family—John C. McNeill—Set- | |
| tlement of Grovenor's Corners—Joseph | |

| | PAGE. |
|---|-------|
| CHAPTER XIX.—(CONTINUED.) | |
| Taylor—Benjamin Young—Squire | |
| John's Place—Carlisle Centre—First | |
| School House—Merchants of Grove- | |
| nor's Corners—Settlement upon the | |
| Turnpike—Carlisle Formed—First | |
| Officers—P. I. Cromwell—D. W. Seeley | |
| —Sloan's Tavern—Huntington Tavern | |
| —Carlisle Church—Henry M. Brown— | |
| Killing of Keller—First Store—Mer- | |
| chants of Carlisle Village—Argusville | |
| —Physicians—Mercantile Firms—The | |
| Bear Swamp—Carlisle Seminary—Rob- | |
| bery of Peter Becker—J. H. Angle— | |
| First Mills—Selleck's Cave—Churches | |
| —Valuation of Town—Supervisors— | |
| Boundaries of Town | 301 |
| CHAPTER XX.—History of the Town of Esperance | |
| —Location of Esperance Village—Pur- | |
| chase of the Lands by TenEyck—By | |
| General North—Turnpike—Bridge— | |
| Daniel Hare—His Inn—Other Inns— | |
| Calvin Wright—J. C. Wright—Isaac H. | |
| Tiffany—Other Lawyers—Presbyterian | |
| Church—Methodist Church—Physicians | |
| —Storrs Messenger—Judge Briggs— | |
| Merchants—Village Corporation—Stage | |
| House and Route—Academy—Feathers | |
| House—Judge Fletcher—Peck's Inn— | |
| First Gate Keeper—Sloansville—Van- | |
| Valkenburgh Settlement—Brown Broth- | |
| ers' Settlement—Sloan Family—Other | |
| Settlers—Stores—Stone Heap—Rev. | |
| Hawley's Narrative—Foster Mill— | |
| Kneiskern's Dorf—Kneiskern Family | |
| —Enders Family—First Grist Mill— | |
| Johnson's Invasion—Encampment— | |
| Town Formed—First Officers—General | |
| Brown—Anti-Rent Troubles—Assem- | |
| blymen—Supervisors—Baptists—First | |
| Newspaper—Quotations from it—Land | |
| Patents | 320 |
| CHAPTER XXI.—History of the Town of Wright | |
| —Town Formed—First Settlement— | |
| Becker Family—Becker Land Grant— | |
| First Saw Mill—Hon Yost Becker— | |
| John Dominick and Family—Events of | |
| 1782—Burning of Zimmer's Buildings | |
| —Becker Murdered—Advance Upon | |
| Major Becker's House—Snyder and | |
| Mann Captured—Traditionary Tale of | |
| Seths Henry's Death—Major Becker's | |
| Death—Stone Store at Shutter's Corners | |
| —Henry Becker—Founding of School | |
| —Hunting Family—Gallupville— | |
| Churches—Reformed Church, Metho- | |
| dist and Lutheran—New Village— | |
| Wagon Making—Dutch Settlement— | |
| Weidman's—Hiram Walden—Super- | |
| visors—Valuation—Merchants and Phys- | |
| icians—Boundaries | 341 |
| CHAPTER XXII.—History of the Town of Schoharie | |
| —First Settlers of Brunnendorf— | |
| Schaeffer Family and Name—Lutheran | |
| Church and Parsonage—Dominic Som- | |
| mers, and other Pastors—Doctor Lin- | |
| ter—Reformed Dutch Church—Church | |
| Converted into a Fort—Doctor Brdd— | |
| "Post Mix"—Peter Mix—Doctor Brig- | |
| ham—Physicians of Schoharie—Captain | |
| Mann—Captain Snyder—Taverns— | |

CHAPTER XXII.—(CONTINUED.)

PAGE.

Present Hotels — Fox's Dorf — Dietz Family—Colonel William Dietz—William Fox and Settlers of Fox's Dorf—Smith's Dorf—Court House—George Tiffany—Lawyer Family—Garlock's Dorf—Jacob Vroman—Samuel Smith O. H. Williams—J. G. Caryl—Strubach Mill—Village at Depot—First Grist-Mill—Carding Mill—Distillery—Business of 1810—Engagement at Fort—John Ingold—Bouck House, and other Buildings—Burning of Court House—Great Fires—Fountain Town School House—Schoharie Academy—Methodist Church—African Church—Gebhard's Cave—Schoharie Bridge—Formation of Town—First Officers—Supervisors—Lutheran Cemetery—Commodore Harding

354

CHAPTER XXIII.—History of the Town of Cobleskill—First Settlement—Brown's Mill and Stream—Cobleskill Militia—Building a Fort—Invasion by Indians and Tories—First Schoolhouse—Lambert Lawyer—Jacob L. Lawyer—Chas. Courter—Augustus C. Smith—Hotels and Inns—Early Merchants—Churches—Mrs. Borst—The Schaeffer or Shafer Family—Van Dresser Farm—Richmyer Family—Captain Brown—Henry Shafer—Berner Settlement—Doctor Werner—Kilmer Settlement—Wetzel Family—Brayman's Mill—Howe's Cave—Mineral Springs—Paul Shank—Methodist Church of Mineral Springs—Lawyersville—First Settlers—Angle Family—Young Family—General Dana—John Redington—William Elmandorf—Jared Goodyear—Isaac H. Tiffany—Thomas Lawyer—Jedediah Miller—Doctor Shepherd—Shotts Family—Thomas Smith—Henry Smith—J. H. Ramsey—William H. Young—Cemetery—Wakeman Family—Reformed Church—Lutheran Church—Early Merchants—Physicians—Legal Fraternity—Manufacturing Interest—Masonic Society—Good Templars—G. A. R. Post—National Bank—Formation of the Town—First Officers—Supervisors—Efforts to Remove the Court House—Boundaries

386

APPENDIX..... 449

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Bouck Governor William C., Fulton, portraitfacing 176
 Bouck Hon. Charles, Fulton, portrait.....facing 176
 Bergh Philip, Fulton, portrait..... 190
 Becker Sarah E., Sharon, view of residence..facing 239
 Best Benjamin, Fulton, portrait.....facing 177
 Couchman Hon. Peter, Conesville, portrait..facing 132
 Clark Hon. William S., Esperance, portrait..facing 337

PAGE.

Colby Thomas, Gilboa, view of residence....facing 128
 Courter Charles, Cobleskill, portrait, (steel) facing 444
 Court House.....frontis
 Freemire John, Jr., Fulton, portrait..... 193
 Holmes Judge Charles, Cobleskill, portrait (steel)facing 431
 Howe's Cave, Cobleskill, view of Cave House.... 407
 Howe's Cave, Cobleskill, view of Crystal Lake.... 409
 Keyser Barent and wife, Blenheim, portraits..... 266
 Kilts Wesley H., Sharon, view of residence..facing 228
 Lawyer General Thomas, Cobleskill, portrait, (steel)facing 441
 Mattice, Adam L., Fulton, portrait..... 194
 Murphy Peter, Fulton, portrait..... 191
 Mayham Hon. Stephen L., Schoharie, portrait..... 384
 Miller Jedediah, Cobleskill, portrait..... 434
 Norwood Dr. J. E., Schoharie, portrait.....facing 363
 Old Brick Lutheran Church, Cobleskill..... 398
 Ramsey Hon. Joseph H., Cobleskill, portrait (steel)facing 435
 Shafer Jacob L., Blenheim, portrait..... 267
 Swart, Dr. Peter S., Schoharie, portrait..... 385
 Sanford, Hon. Lyman, Middleburgh, portrait (steel)between 222-223
 Stone Fort, Schoharie..... 360
 Tanner James, Cobleskill, portrait (steel)....facing 445
 Vroman Ephraim B., Fulton, portrait..... 195
 Wieting Rev. Philip, Cobleskill, portrait..... 448
 Westover Hon. John, Richmondville, portrait (steel)facing 299

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Bergh Philip, Fulton..... 190
 Best Benjamin, Fulton.....facing 177
 Bouck Governor William C., Fulton..... 176
 Bouck Hon. Charles, Fulton.....facing 176
 Clark Hon. William S., Esperance..... 337
 Colby Thomas, Gilboa.....between 128-129
 Couchman Hon. Peter, Conesville 132
 Courter Charles, Cobleskill..... 444
 Freemire John Jr., Fulton 193
 Holmes Judge Charles, Cobleskill..... 431
 Keyser Barent, Blenheim 265
 Lawyer General Thomas, Cobleskill..... 441
 Mattice Adam L., Fulton 194
 Mayham Hon. Stephen L., Schoharie..... 383
 Miller Jedediah, Cobleskill..... 433
 Murphy Peter, Fulton. 191
 Ramsey Hon. Joseph H., Cobleskill..... 435
 Sanford Hon. Lyman, Middleburgh...between 222-223
 Shafer, Jacob L., Blenheim..... 267
 Swart Peter S., M. D., Schoharie..... 385
 Tanner James, Coble-kill..... 445
 Vroman Ephraim B., Fulton..... 195
 Westover Hon. John, Richmondville..... 299
 Wieting Rev. Philip, Cobleskill..... 447

INTRODUCTION.

In compiling the facts chronicled in the following pages, the Author has not been led by an idea of financial gain or literary glory, but by a sense of the worthiness of Schoharie's history being published by itself, and not in connection with that of other localities. In this County he has a pride. It is the "land of his birth!" He glories in her beauty and grandeur.

Whether it be among her fossiliferous rocks, within her winding caverns, or upon the romantic surface, he feels that it is home; full of instruction, pleasing associations and wonders, such as few sections can boast.

Prompted by such motives, and the solicitations of those earnest in interest, the Author was induced, many years ago, to garner the harvest of events connected with the County, which he here presents for the instruction and pleasure of the youth of Schoharie, with the hope that a presentation of the struggles of their forefathers and mothers, in establishing *peaceful* homes, and their triumphs through sacrifice of life, fortunes and personal pleasures, in obtaining the rich blessings of freedom, may animate them to a just appreciation of the priceless inheritance bequeathed to them.

Others with more pleasing pens, have traced our early history previously in connection with other border settlements, and brought to light many facts that would have been lost, or marred by ruthless tradition but for these labors at the time; yet the inveterate animosity created by antagonistical interest through the settlement of the Palatines, and later through the Revolutionary war, has not died away, and much that was chronicled has been proved through more recent discoveries of documents, to have been exaggerations, dictated by those "bitterest of feelings."

The settlement of the Germans, and incidents connected with their pioneer life, was based entirely upon tradition, leaving important facts in doubt, and dates open to conjecture. The only work upon that event was by the late Judge John M. Brown, in his "Brief Sketch of the First Settlement of Schoharie," published in 1823, when he had arrived at the advanced age of seventy-eight. The work was founded upon

tradition, with the exception of such events as came under his personal observation, and proves to be incorrect, yet it is an interesting and amusing work, with too few pages to satisfy the reader, upon such an interesting subject. Campbell, in his "Annals of Tryon County," and Jephtha R. Simms, in his "Border Wars," have traced the same line of events through tradition, and brought their conclusions before the reader in nearly parallel lines. They were better acquainted with the incidents connected with the Revolution, through many of the actors in that strife, with whom they were intimate, and to them we are indebted for many authentic facts that make up the general history of that eventful period. Revolutionary facts thus handed down, coupled with those collected in the forepart of the century by the Author's parent, who was conversant with many of the old patriots, together with rusty documents of late brought to light and never before published or consulted, assure the authenticity of this work, from the first settlement of the County to the close of the war, which part of our history has hitherto proved unsatisfactory.

In collecting facts relating to the time intervening between the last event and the present day, the writer has spared neither time nor expense, and has traveled thousands of miles, repeatedly visiting each neighborhood to consult persons, records, and public archives, and feels that his labors have been in the main, fruitful in interest and accuracy.

The latter has been a pleasing portion of the task, as it has brought him in close acquaintance with the people of the County, from whom he has received the kindest hospitality, assistance and encouragement in the work, and given birth to many associations that will be treasured with pleasing remembrances and jealous care.

Among the many visited, were aged ones—the silver rays of Schoharie's heroic days—who have cleared the portals of seventy, eighty, and even ninety-five, with robust forms and active minds, and to them the writer has many times been indebted for explanations and the information necessary to a correct filling out of records carelessly kept.

Those who have aided and encouraged in the work, have been almost "Legion," and to all such the writer extends his grateful thanks, and hopes his efforts to present a truthful history, will not prove fruitless, but that it may be a mile-stone of events reared upon our County's century course, and read by our youth and posterity with profit, and by their true patriotism, industry and frugality, be enabled to add as worthy a record of their day and generation, as the fathers of the County have here transcribed through the author

WILLIAM E. ROSCOE.

HISTORY

OF

SCHOHARIE COUNTY.

CHAPTER I.

THE GERMANS—CAUSE OF LEAVING GERMANY—PALATINE TENANTS—KOCHERTHAL'S PETITION—FIRST IMMIGRATION AGENTS SENT TO GERMANY—HUNTER'S PETITION—REPORT OF BOARD OF TRADE FAVORABLE TO IMMIGRATION—ROBERT HUNTER APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT OF IMMIGRATION—HIS LETTER OF ARRIVAL AT NEW YORK—APPOINTED GOVERNOR—ACTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL—FEELING OF ENMITY—GERMAN CHILDREN APPRENTICED—SETTLEMENT AT THE "CAMPS"—NUMBER OF SETTLERS—TROUBLE EXPERIENCED—DISCONTENT OF GERMANS—MEETINGS HELD—LORD CLARENDON'S LETTER—EXPEDITION TO CANADA—GERMANS PETITION TO THE KING.

AFTER wandering through the picturesque valleys and over the noble hills of Schoharie County, visiting the many places made historic by the scenes and incidents enacted in the "days that tried men's souls," and after glean- ing from family records, official documents, public and private journals, and archives in gen- eral, we find ourselves upon a mountain of

facts, from which we can look over the whole territory. From this position let us look back beyond the advent here of the first pioneers, and satisfy ourselves as to whom they were, and the causes that induced them to brave old ocean's calms and storms; and also at what time they came.

Let us not forget, however, that we are tread- ing upon tender ground that has been gleaned by others of riper age and greater ability, nor the natural propensity to condemn where ideas disagree. From this "mountain of facts" we find, regardless of the differences of opinion in relation to the time and the causes which led to the first settlement of Schoharie, that all writers agree as to the *nationality* of those settlers, and ascribe to them those commendable character- istics—Honesty, Frugality and Industry.

Many sections of our country have been the asy- lums of the religiously and politically oppressed —of those who fled from their homes in the Old World, to enjoy the privileges that conscience craves of the one, and free thought and speech of the other, even if it could only be granted in an unknown wilderness, infested by savages and wild beasts.

It has been conjectured that the Germans who settled at Schoharie fled from their homes to avoid religious persecution; but those who have advanced this idea have been content to

follow in the path marked out by imaginary traditions, and self-satisfied conjectures, without taking pains to explore archives that concealed documents left by those sturdy ones to enlighten us.

It is a singular fact, that history is more truthful after the lapse of a century or more from the time the events transpired, than at a nearer date, as all personal animosities, self-interests, jealousies, and all other monitors of fictitious chronicles die out, leaving the field open for the impartial to glean facts as they were, without distrust of disapprobation by factions, cliques or communities.

The first settlers of this County were Palatine tenants from the lower part of Germany. They were called "Palatines" from the fact that the lands which they occupied were owned and ruled by officers under the Crown, called "Palatines," and the country over which they presided, as governors, were "Palatinates." By studying the history of that time, we find that the poorer class—the tenants of these officials—were ground down by crown, state and church taxation, so much so that they barely made a living. Yet, the church requirements were more obligatory through choice than compulsion, as the people had long been free from the Popish grasp, and, as a mass, were followers of Luther.

In order to give an idea of the cause of the German immigration to this country, we will draw the attention of the reader to a letter,* written by one Joshua Kocherthal, a minister to the Board of Trade in London in 1708. He petitions, "in behalf of himself and the poor Lutherans, to be transported to some of ye Ma^{ts} plantations in America." "We humbly take leave to represent that they are, in number, forty-one—ten men, ten women and twenty-one children; that they are very necessitous and in the utmost want, not having at present anything to subsist themselves; that they have been rendered to this by the ravages committed by the French in the Lower Palatinat, where they lost all they had."†

This small band, on the 29th of June, 1709, was settled upon Quasek Creek‡ in Ulster

County, and was the first German immigration to America.

By referring to European history, the reader will find that in 1702, England, Holland and Germany declared war against France, in support of Charles, Archduke of Austria, to the Spanish throne.

Charles the Second of Spain died in 1700, and Louis the Fourteenth of France, wishing to make Spain an ally, trumped up a candidate for the throne in the person of Philip of Anjou. The war lasted until the year 1713. During the years 1708, '09 the French carried hostilities upon German soil, and devastated the Lower Country, as stated by Kocherthal in his petition. England, possessing a goodly portion of America and receiving but meager supplies from her, embraced the opportunity (as she was but thinly inhabited) of peopling her possessions with the homeless Palatines; and, according to Brown's Pamphlet History, sent agents throughout the Palatinates to induce them to immigrate here; as we of to-day find our Western railroad companies that received large bounties in land from the government sending agents throughout Europe, to induce immigration, that their claims may become settled and produce a revenue. A goodly portion of the Western States, through such agencies, have been peopled, and numberless poor, delving, tenants of the Old World have become landlords here, under the influence of our generous laws. We trust they will continue to come by thousands, as in them we find industrious, energetic and law-abiding citizens.

Seeing the opportunity offered of peopling the American possessions, Robert Hunter, a man of official ambition, conceived the idea of immigrating a large colony of the Germans, and petitioned the London Board of Trade to that effect. The board made the following report "To the Queen's Most Gracious Majesty," on the 5th of December, 1709, which was approved January 7th, 1710.

From this second immigration came the pioneers of Schoharie County. As we shall be under the necessity of referring, in several points, to the above mentioned report, we will copy a portion of it, leaving out that which will be of no service to us, it being too monotonous for the matter-of-fact American reader:—

* London Documents.

† Documentary History.

‡ Now Chambers Creek.

"May It Please Your Majesty: "In obedience to your Majesty's commands, signified to us by the Right Hon^{ble} the Earl of Sunderland, we have considered the proposals made to us by Colonel Hunter, for settling 3,000 Palatines at New York and Employing them in the Production of Naval Stores, and thereupon humbly Represent to your Majesty—

"That the Province of New York being the most advanced Frontier of Your Majesty's Plantations on the Continent of America, the Defence and Preservation of that place is of the utmost importance to the security of all the Rest; and if the said Palatines were seated, they would be an additional strength and security to that Province, not only with regard to the French of Canada, But against any Insurrection of the scattered Nations of Indians upon that Continent, and, therefore, we humbly propose that they be sent thither.

"By the best Information we can gett, the most proper Places for the seating them in that Province, so as they may be of benefit to this Kingdom by the Production of Naval Stores, are on the Mohaques River and on the Hudsons Rivers, where are very great numbers of Pines fit for Production of Turpentine and Tar, out of which Rosin and Pitch are made.

"First—In relation to the Mohaques River: Your Majesty was pleased, by your order in Council of the 26th June, 1708, to confirm an Act, passed at New York, the 2nd of March, 1693 for vacating several Extravagant Grants, whereby large Tracts of Land are returned to your Majesty, and among the rest.

"A Tract of Land lying on the Mohaques River, containing about 50 miles in length and four miles in breadth, and a Tract of land lying upon a creek which runs into the said River, which contains between 24 and 30 miles in Length. This last mentioned Land, of which Your Majesty has the possession, is claimed by the Mohaques, but that claim may be satisfied on very easy terms.

"The Objection that may be made to the seating of the Palatines, on the fore-mentioned Mohaques River, is the Falls that are on the said River between Schenectady and Albany, which will be an interruption in the Water Carriage, but as that may be easily helped by a

short land carriage of about 3 miles at the west, we do not see that this objection will be any hindrance to the seating of them there, In Case there be not an opportunity of doing it more conveniently in some other part of that Province.

* * * * *

"We therefore humbly offer that the Governor or Commander in Chief be Directed upon their Arrival to Seat them all, either in a Boddy or in different Settlements, upon those or other Lands as he shall Find most proper and that they be Encouraged to settle and work in Partnership, that is, 5 or more families to unite and work in common.

"That the Governor be likewise Directed to grant, under the Seal of that Province, without fee or Reward, 40 acres per head to each family, after they shall have repaid, by the produce of their Labour, the charges the publick shall be at in settling and subsisting them there, in the manner as hereinafter proposed: To have and to hold the said Lands, to them and their heirs forever, under the usual Quit-Rent, to commence and be payable after seven years from the date of Each respective Grant; and further, that in every such grant there be an express Proviso that the Lands so granted shall be seated and planted within a reasonable time, to be therein prefixed, or, on failure thereof, such Grant to be void and to revert to the Crown. And for the better preventing those people from falling upon the Woollen Manufactures, it will be proper that in every such grant, a Clause be inserted, declaring the said Grant to be void, if such Grantee shall apply himself to the making of Woollen or such like manufacture.

"As these people are very necessitous, they will not be able to maintain themselves there till they can reap the benefit of their labour, which will not be till after one year at the soonest. We therefore humbly offer, that they be subsisted, the men and women at the rate of 6^d sterling a head per day, and the children under the age of 10 years, at 4^d Sterling per day, which as we are informed, will be sufficient.

"When their houses shall be built and the ground cleared for making their settlements, they may then be Employed in the making of

Turpentine Rozin Tar and Pitch, and that this will be beneficial not only to the said Palatines, but to this Kingdom.

“As these Palatines are ignorant in the Production of those Stores, it will be necessary that three or four persons well skilled in the doing thereof (if to be had) be sent from hence, to instruct the said Palatines there, and that they be allowed £200, New York money, per annum each, during their being employed in this work.

“In case no such persons can be found here, then We propose that Mr. Bridges, Surveyor-General of Your Majesty's Woods on the Continent of America, who was sent 4 or 5 years ago to New England to instruct the People there, be Directed to go to New York for that purpose, and that he bring with him 3 or 4 other persons, the most skilfull he can get, who may assist him in the instructing the said Palatines, and for their pains therein have a Salary of £100 p^r annum during such their employ and stay at New York.

“It will be likewise necessary that there be Supervisors appointed to reside among the said Palatines to over see and keep them at work, with a Salary of £100 per annum each. As to the number of the said supervisors we humbly conceive it cannot well be regulated here, for that will Depend in a great measure upon the number of the Palatines settlements, and On the Distance they may be one from the other. Therefore we are of opinion that this be left to the Discretion of Your Majesty's Governor after his arrival there.

“And we further offer that the Premium given by an Act made in the 3d and 4th year of Your Majesty's Reign to encourage the Importation of Naval Stores from Your Majesty's Plantations in America, be paid to such factor or Agent to and for the sole Benefit of such Palatines, who were the Manufacturers of such Stores, in like manner as Premiums are allowed to other Importers of Naval Stores from those parts.

“Lastly, we humbly offer that the said Palatines, upon their arrival there, be Naturalized without fee or Reward, that they may enjoy all

such privileges and advantages as are Enjoyed by the present Inhabitants of that Province.”

While the Palatines were in London, Brigadier Robert Hunter was appointed to superintend the transportation of them by Queen Anne. They set sail some time between the approving of the report (January 7th, 1710) and the 14th of June following. After their arrival, Hunter addressed the following letter to the board of trade in London:—

NEW YORK,* July 24th, 1710.

“My Lords:

By a small vessel bound for Lisbon, I gave your Lordships notice of our arrival here (June 14th). Since that time all the Palatine ships, separated by the weather, are arrived safe, except the Herbert Frigate, where our Tents and Arms are. She was cast away on the East end of Long Island, on the 7th of July, the men are safe, but goods much damaged. We still want the Berkley Castle, which we left at Portsmouth. The poor people have been mightily sickly, but recover apace. We have lost above 470 of our number.

“Soon after our arrival, I sent the surveyor † with some skillful men to survey the land on the Mohaks river, particularly the Skohare, to which the Indians had no pretense—being Col. Bayard's grant—they however, by the instigation of some ill-intentioned men, at first refused to suffer it to be surveyed, upon pretense of its having returned to them, after the resumption, but have been better advised since. So at this time he is actually surveying of it. These lands, however, I believe will be no ways fit for the design in hand, being very good Lands which bears no Pines and lyes verry remote. I shall however be able to carry it on elsewhere, for there is no want of Pines, but the Pine land being good for nothing, the difficulty will lye in finding such a situation as will afford good land for their settlements near the Pine lands. I am in terms with some who have lands on the Hudsons River fitt for that purpose, which I

* London Documents, XVIII.

† Augustus Graham was the surveyor that was sent to Schoharie to survey the land, and his bill—now in the office of the Secretary of State—amounted to £121, being employed one hundred and twenty days at twenty shillings per day.

intend to view next week in company with Dr. Bridges, who is now with me, and gives me good encouragement."

On the same day of Hunter's arrival at New York (June 14th), he was appointed Governor of the "Province of New York and its dependencies." Thus we find this the second immigration of Germans arriving at New York in June and July, 1710.

We find that the city council had the fact of the arrival brought before them, by Mr. Beekman, its President, on the 13th of June and "desired the council to give their opinion what measures are proper to be taken with respect to them," and "that the mayor of ye city having petitioned to the board from himself and the corporation, setting forth that there is just cause to believe that there are many contagious distempers among them, which they are apprehensive, will endanger the health of the inhabitants of the city if they be landed, in any part thereof," etc. In council, June 16th, it was ordered that certain officials "doe draw up a Scheme, for ye Ordering, Ruling, and Government of ye Palantines, and that it is the opinion of this board, that Nutten Island (now Governors) is the properest place to put the Palantines," etc.

Huts were constructed, and the Germans kept upon the Island until other provisions could be made for them. New York city at that time, was mostly Holland or Low Dutch, yet under English government. They were not on the best of terms with the Germans, or High Dutch. Whether enmity had existed towards each other at home, as a people, or was an offspring of selfish commercial dealing here, we are unable to say; but by preserved letters of business transactions between the two branches of Dutch, which it is unnecessary to copy, we find that their early intercourse at New York was marked by ill feeling; and from the tenor of their communications, we are led to think that the Germans were very distrustful of the honesty of their neighbor Hollanders.

Among the Germans at Nutten Island were many children, quite a number of whom were orphans, made so, no doubt, by the sea voyage, as stated by Hunter. The Government having the whole in charge, to provision etc., we find

that the council ordered, (so as to retrench expenses) on the 20th of June, the following:—

"There having been severall Proposals made for the taking many of the Palantines children for a Term of years, and there being many Orphans who are unable to take care of themselves to work and many who by sickness are Rendered incapable of doing any service for some time & in that condition would be a great expense and there being noe prospect of Settling them this summer by reason its soe much advanced, His Excellency does appoint Doctor Staats and Mr. Van Dam or either of them to take such Proposals for Placing out the orphans and other children whose Parents have a numerous Family, entering into an Instrument in Writing, to Cloathe, Victual and use them well, and to deliver them to the Government when called for."*

We find that the boys were apprenticed until the age of seventeen, and the girls until fifteen years of age. Thirty-four were bound out in 1710—twenty-five in 1711—three in 1712—and one in 1714.

Here we are led to think, undue advantage was taken of the poor Germans by Government officials. We cannot believe that they would have immigrated under the protection of a foreign government, unless great inducements were offered for doing so. If they had not been assured of their little effects and families being retained, and also their freedom granted to support and maintain them, we do not believe they would have listened to England's entreaties. Apprenticing the orphans was right, as they had no one to care for them; but taking children away from their able-bodied parents, was inhuman, and uncalled for. The Government knew their situation and the expense likely to occur from transporting and settling the Palatines, and if they did not wish to support the children, they ought not to have taken them nor their parents under its protection. By a petition to the Crown in 1720, to which we will draw the reader's attention hereafter, this act of apprenticing children, is spoken of among a long list of grievances, and also the promise made to them of "forty acres of land to each person,"

* Historical Documents.

with necessary utensils, etc., upon their arrival; but after being huddled together upon Nutten Island until November, Hunter wrote to the Board of Trade, that he had purchased a tract of 6,000 acres of Robert Livingston "for the settlement of the Palantines," and upon the 14th of November, 1710, he wrote to the same:—

"I have now settled the Palantines upon good lands upon both sides of the Hudson's River, about one hundred miles up, adjacent to the Pines. I have planted them in five Villages, three upon the East side of the River upon 6,000 acres I have purchased of Mr. Livingston about two miles from Row Lof Jansens Kill. The other two on the West side near Sawyer's Creek, as your Lordships will observe by the inclosed sketch No 10 compared with your maps.

"The lands on the West side belong to the Queen. Each family hath a sufficient Lot of good arable land, and ships of 15 foot draught of water can sail up as far as the Plantations. They have already built themselves huts, and are now employed in clearing off the grounds. In the Spring I shall set them to work preparing the Trees, according to Mr. Bridges direction."*

Thus it will be seen by the foregoing letter, that the Germans were settled at Livingston's Manor, in November 1710, in five villages or encampments, which originated in the place being called "the Camps." Livingston was a man of large means, for those days. He owned a mill and brew-house, and made a contract with Gov. Hunter to supply "the camps" with provisions at the Governments' expense. Such supplies were to consist of "For each person of them, each day, the quantity of Bread, equal to one-third of a Loaf of bread of such sort and assize which is comonly at the prise of four per. ce half penny in the city of New York, and one quart of Beer such as is usually called Ships beer, of the Prise of three pounds for each Tun, All which is to be delivered to the commissary of the Palantines." The first account, for the subsistence of the Palatines, shows that the first arrival at "the camps" was Oct. 6th, 1710, and

the number of persons 213. "On Jan. 1st, 1711, they numbered 1,434. In June 1711, there were, upon the east tide of the river, four villages—called 'dorfs'—namely—Hunters-town, Queensbury, Annsbury, and Haysbury, containing 1,189 Palantines." On the west side, there were three, Elizabethtown, Georgetown, and Newtown, with 614, making 1,803 Palatines at "the camps." Over each of these villages, or "dorfs", was placed one of their number, to keep a correct account of their condition, wants, etc., and was required to make a report to the commissary, at the beginning of each month. Those overseers or head men were called "List-masters," and were, in the order of the villages, just mentioned—"John Peter Kneiskern, John Conrad Weiser, Hartman Windecker, John Christopher Tucks, John Christopher Gerlach, Jacob Manch and Philip Peter Granberger."

In the spring of 1711, the Germans became dissatisfied with the lands upon which they were located, and asked to be taken to those which they had been promised—namely—Schoharie—or—as called by them "Schorie." Here, it will be observed, that the Germans first speak of a "promise" to be taken to "Schorie." During their discontentment at the "camps" they were firmly determined to leave them, and go to "Schorie," stating that the Governor and other officials had deceived them, by promising them while in England, to locate them in Schoharie, and to give to each forty acres of land, with necessary implements, etc. The officials denied making such a promise, but as to the forty acres of land, admitted, that they were to have it *after* paying for it, together with the expense the Government had been to for transportation, in tar and pitch. But the Governor and council of New York had made arrangements to begin the manufacture of tar and pitch at this time, yet upon attempting to set them to work, the overseers found the Palatines "resolute in disobeying orders," in fact, mutinized. Secretary Clarke, in writing to the London Board of Trade says:—

"About a fortnight ago his Excel^{cy} having received information from their Overseers and other Officers that these people had taken a Resolution neither to work in making Pitch and Tarr nor to remain on the land they

*Documentary History.

are settled upon for that purpose, but even by force, If they could not otherwise effect it to remove to Schohary (a tract of resumed lands) and that they had actually hindered the Surveyor from laying out more Lots to them" also "By their deputies they returned for answer that when the surveyors came to lay out more land, the People called them out, told them 'twas worth nothing, they would have no more, so that 'twas needless to survey it and that they would have the land at Schohary which the Queen had ordered them by their contract.

* * * * *

"His Excellency replied. That as to the lands at Schorie, its the malace of those who would have them for their slaves that put them on demanding it, for that those lands the Indians had not yet parted with, nor were they fit for their labor, no pine being within Twenty miles of it, that it would be impossible to sub-sist them there, or defend them against ye French and French Indians & besides they had obliged themselves to settle on such lands as he should assign them and then desired their final answer, which was, that they would have the lands appointed them by the Queen.

"Whereupon his Excellency in writing told them that since neither their duty or allegiance or regard to Her Maj's unparalleled Charity in goodness in taking them up and providing for them when they were starving, and abandoned by the world beside, had been of any force to keep you within the bounds of their duty, and since they had no regard to a solemn contract signed by them, he was come to require & enforce the execution of it, Copies and Translations of which they had in their own language, and that they must give their final answer the next day at four in the evening.

"A few minutes after the deputies were gone, His Excellency was informed that a body of three or four Hundred of them were then passing the brook, the Deputies, among whom were the Captains, returned to him, and in appearance seemed softened, and then went to the people who were drawn up on the hill above the house, towards whom his Excellency marching with his detachment.

"One of the commissary's who had been with them told him they had come to pay their com-

pliments to him, so his Excellency walked up to them, and asked them what they meant by appearing in arms, they told him what they told the Commissary.

"Thereupon his Excellency ordered them home to their habitations and being gone about a mile they discharged all their firelocks.

"But their saying they came to pay their compliments was only a pretence, for they told two of their officers, as they were going home, that they came to relieve their Deputies in case they had been confined. The next day the Deputies came according to order with their answers which begins indeed with a desire that his Excellency would assist them, that they might be settled in the lands of Schohary, but they soon forgot their humble style and told his Excellency that they had rather lose their lives immediately, than remain where they are, that they are cheated by the contract, it not being the same that was read in England there, they say it runs thus, 'that seven years after they had forty acres a head a piece given them, they were to repay the Queen by Hemp, Mast trees, Tarr and Pitch, or anything else, so that it may be no damage to any man in his family.' Upon these terms they will perform the contract, but to be forced by any other contract to remain upon the lands all their lives and work for her Majesty for the ship use, that they will never consent to doe. What does it signify, they say, to promise them this land that they shall make pitch and Tarr. They will be obedient to the Queen, but they will have the promise kept that Mr. Cast read to them in High Dutch in England, and upon that land which was promised them they will be there, and if they cannot they desire three or four men may goe for England and lay their case before the Queen. They say likewise there are a great many things promised them—Clothing, household goods and working tools wch they desire to have." "They say further their people dye for want of care and proper remedies and desire money to sub-sist themselves and lastly they say Mr. Cast told them he'd make them slaves and therefore desire his Excellency to appoint another in his room.

"Whilst his Excellency was talking to the Deputies he received information that there was a great body of men in arms on the other side of

the brook and having by that time a re-enforcement of seventy men more, he marched the detachment immediately and passed the brook, the Palatines were run home to their houses. His Excellency marched to the first village and ordered them to bring in all their arms, which they did immediately except a few. He could goe no further that night, but the next morning marched to ye other three villages on the same side of the river and disarmed them all and then returning to Mr. Livingston, sent orders to the villages on the other side to bring in their arms that day to the storehouse to be transported to him, which I believe they have done.”*

The letter is lengthy, and having given an idea of the Germans discontent and the extent of the mutiny, we will not copy the remainder, as the writer, in substance, “wonders how a people can be so ungrateful to the Queen,” and that “Its hardly creditable that men who reap so great a benefit as they doe by these people—not only by the consumption of their provisions, but by the increase of strength, should be so malicious to possess them with notions so injurious to themselves and prejudicial to Her Majesty’s Interest but yet it is so.”

Whom those were that “possessed” the Germans we are unable to tell, but we are satisfied that John Conrad Weiser, the List-master over Queensbury, urged their disobedience, as we find he was a very “malicious” man, in the officials’ estimation after removing to “Schorie.” Without doubt, great advantage was taken by the officials over the Germans, especially by Mr. Livingston, in furnishing the supplies; as he was a shrewd, money-making man, and as more modern “government contractors” do, stinted in quality if not in quantity, to the detriment of the stomachs of the Palatines. Various interested men wrote to the London Board of Trade in regard to the “maliciousness” of the Germans, and without doubt that honorable body had discussed the matter. Being aware, however, of the temptations held out for money-making, a portion, at least, of that body, took a fair view of the matter and one in particular, Lord Clarendon, wrote to Lord Dartmouth in regard to Mr. Livingston, as follows:—

“I think it is unhappy that Col. Hunter at

his first arrival in his Government fell into so ill hands, for this Livingston has been known for many years in that province, for a very ill man. He formerly victualled the forces at Albany, in which he was guilty of most notorious frauds, by which he greatly improved his estate. He has a Mill and a Brew-house upon his land, and if he can get the victualing of those Palatines, who are so conveniently posted for his purpose, he will make a very good addition to his estate, and I am persuaded, the hopes he has of such a Subsistence to be allowed by Her Majesty, were the chief, if not the only Inducements, that prevailed with him to propose to Gov. Hunter, to settle them upon his land, which is not the best Place for Pine Trees. The borders of Hudson’s River above Albany, and the Mohawk River, Schenectady, are well known to be the best places for Pines of all sorts, both for numbers, and largeness of Trees. * *

My Lord, upon the whole matter, I am of the opinion, that if the Subsistence proposed, be allowed, the consequence will be, that Livingston and some others will get Estates, and the Palatines will not be richer.”*

The Germans became convinced, no doubt, that they had been deceived, either by their misunderstanding the contract in England or the dishonesty of those who read it to them, and resolved to keep quiet, at least until after the contemplated campaign against Canada. In June of 1711, a secret expedition was started from New York city, both by sea and land, to take Quebec from the French. A land force was to form a junction with the fleet before the city, and capture the fortress. In July, Gen. Nicholson started with the land force, and was joined at the “Camps” by 300 of the Palatines, under the command of Capt. John Peter Kneiskern, Conrad Weiser, Hartman Windecker and J. Christopher Tucks. The vessels encountered a heavy storm and were driven back, and a few of them were wrecked and failed to reach Quebec. The land force waited impatiently for the vessels and at last decided to return, which they did in the latter part of the August following. They found that their families had been poorly provided for and were upon the verge of starvation which

* London Documents.

* London Documents, XVIII.

again aroused them to a sense of the injustice with which they were dealt, and a deeper desire to remove from the "Camps." Some of them became "unwary," and settled upon lands belonging to others, and "ye justices" were ordered to cause them to return to their own settlements, and in May, 1712, a detachment of troops was ordered among them, as they "will not obey orders without compulsion."

Upon the 6th of September, 1712, the Governor wrote a letter* to Mr. Cast, one of the commissioners, the substance of which we will here give; and we desire its special notice, as reference will be given to it again. He says:—

"I have at length exhausted all of my credit I was master of, for the support of the Palatines; and have thereby, I assure you, embarrassed myself with difficulties, which I know not how to surmount, if my bills of exchange be not paid.

"When you call the people together, and communicate together the present state of my affairs, you will tell them, that I wish they would accept any employment they may get from farmers, and others in this Province, and New Jersey, for their own, and their families support, until they are recalled by Proclamation or other public notice."

Upon learning the situation of affairs from Mr. Cast, the discontent became greater, and since they were obliged to seek employment elsewhere, and that, too, at the close of the year, they concluded to embrace the opportunity of seeking the "promised land Schorie," and after years of "dhrouble" even in that imaginary paradise, they sent a petition to King George—as their devoted Queen Anne had gone to her rest—laying their grievances before his Majesty, which we will here copy as it gives us the true dates, to verify in a measure that which we have already noticed.

"The Condition, Greivances and oppressions of the Germans In His Majesty's Province of New York In America, 1720:—

"In the year 1709 was her late Majesty Queen Anne most graciously pleased to send a body of between 3 and 4000 Germans to New York under the Inspection and Care of Robert

Hunter, then Governor there, with particular Orders & Instructions to settle them upon lands belonging to the Crown, and such as was most proper for raising Tarr & Pitch and other Naval stores.

"Before they left England they were promis'd 5 pounds in money pr. head, of which they have received nothing at all. It was likewise promis'd that on their arrival there, Each of them should receive Cloaths, Utensils, tools and other Conveniency's belonging to Husbandry, all which were sent with them from England for their use but of these they have received but little.

"They were moreover to have a grant of 40 acres of land to each person but it was never perform'd.

"On their landing at New York they were quartered in tents on the comon & divided in six companies over each of which was a Captain appointed to Command them, (of which number John Conrad Weiser arrived here in London 1718) with an allowance of £15 per annum each but not one farthing has been hitherto paid to them.

"About the same time took the Govern'r without & against their consent many children from them and bound them to several of the Inhabitants of that province till they should arrive to the age of 21 years, particularly two Sons from Captain Weiser, one of twelve and another of 13 years of age by which means they were deprived of the comfort of their Childrens Company and Education as well as the assistance & Support they might in a small way have reasonably expected from them.

"In the fall of that year, those that were living [then it must be observed that during their voyage thither and after their landing a great number of them died] were removed to a tract of land belonging to one Mr. Livingston where they liv'd in houses, erected by themselves, till the Spring following, when they were ordered to the woods to make Tarr & Pitch and continued there nearly two years, but as the land was improper to raise any sort of naval stores in any Considerable Quantity their labors turn'd to a different account and the profits of building & Improving the lands fell to a private person, they not being able to make more than 200 barrels of Pitch and tarr. The small prospect they had

* Documentary History.

of being in a Capacity to serve the nation, who had so generously & Charitably advanc'd very great sums of money for their relief & Support and the Impossibility there was of raising Corn, Cattle & other provisions for their subsistence on such ordinary & allmost barren land oblig'd them to petition the aforesaid Governor that they might be put in possession & settle on the land Call'd *Schorie* which the Indians had given to the late Queen Anne for their use, he answered that tho the lands was theirs he could nor would not take it from them, neither could he settle them there, because it would oblige him to maintain to many Garrisons.

"The said Governor thought fitt sometime after to visit all the villages, where they were settled and view the people there, who with one Consent apply'd to him again, humbly praying they might go and inhabit the above promis'd land, upon which he in a passion stamped upon the ground & said, here is your land (meaning the almost barren rocks) where you must live and die.

"The second year after our arrival were orders sent to them to detach 300 able men to serve on the late unfortunate expedition against Canada, which they willingly & Cheerfully did, and on their return, were their arms taken from them, tho all that went on the expedition should have kept them by her late Majesty's particular Order without paying them any wages or Sallery, (notwithstanding they were put on the Establishment of New York and New Jersey or both, & the money received by the said Governor) they marched home, where they found their family's allmost starved, no provisions having been given them during their absence.

"The Winter following did the Inhabitants of the frontier Town of Albany desire the Governor that they might have (being fearfull) the assistance of some of them to strengthen ye Garrison of that town from Invasion of the Indians in Conjunction with the French of Canada, which the Governor agreeing to, they went accordingly, but were never paid.

"In the second year of their abode at Livingston's on the pitch wood, three of their people were sent down to Col. Hunter, Petitioning that he would be pleased to order them their full allowance of provisions, which they never

hitherto had, to which he answered that they should return home & he wou'd send orders after them, and about 8 days after came this surprising message from him, that he had not received any subsistance for them from England, & therefore every one of them must shift for himself, but not out of the province.

"This was the latter end of the year and winter just at hand which is very severe, there being no provisions to be had, & the people bare of Cloaths, which occasioned a terrible Consternation amongst them & particully from the women and children, the most pityful Cryes and lamentations that have perhaps ever been heard from any person under the most wretched and miserable circumstances, so that they were at last much against their wills, put under the hard & greeting necessity of seeking releif from the Indians. Upon which some of their Chiefs were suddenly dispatch'd away to the Indians by whom they were kindly received, & to whom they open'd their miserable condition & that being wholly cast off by the sd Governor, & left destituted of the means of living elsewhere, they intreated them to give 'em permission to settle on the tract of land call'd *Schorie* which they immediately granted, saying, they had formerly given the sd land to Queen Anne for them to possess and that nobody should hinder them of it, and they would assist them as farr as they were able. Whereupon these chiefs returned to the people acquainting them of the Indians favorable disposition.

"This put the people in some heart & finding it absolutely necessary to embrace that opportunity so providently bestowed on them all hands fell to work and in 2 weeks Clear'd a way thr' the woods of 15 miles long with the utmost toyle and labor, tho almost starved & without bread. Which being effected 50 family's were immediately sent to *Schorie* when being arrived & allmost settled they there received orders from the Governor, not to goe upon that land & he who did so shou'd be declared a Rebell.

"This message sounded like thunder in their ears, and surprised them beyond expression, but having seriously weighed matters amongst themselves & finding no manner of likelihood of subsisting Elsewhere but a certainty of perish-

ing by hunger, Cold, etc., if they returned, they found themselves under the fatal necessity of hazzarding the Gov^rs Resentment, that being to all more Eligible than Starving.

"In the same year in March did the remainder of the people (tho treated by the Governor as Pharao treated the Israelites) proceed on their journey & by Gods assistance, travell'd in fourtnight with sledges tho the snow which there covered the ground above 3 foot deep, Cold & Hunger, Joynd their friends and Countryman in the promised land *Schorie*.

"The number of Germans who came hither to search for bread for themselves, their wives and children, were more than the land already granted them by the Indians cou'd supply with settlements & some of the people of Albany endeavoring to purchase the land around em from the Indians on purpose to close them up, and deprive them of any rang for their Cattel, they were obliged to solicit all the Indian Kings there adjoining for more land, which they willingly granted 'em & sold 'em the rest of the land at *Schorie* being woods Rocks and pastaridge for 300 pieces of Eight.

"No sooner had Governor Hunter notice of their settlement and agreement with the Indians but he ordered one Adam Vroman to endeavor to persuade the Indians to break the agreement made.

"Upon the first settlement of this land the misery's of those poor & almost famished Creatures underwent were incredible, & had it not been for the Charity of the Indians, who shew'd them where to gather some eatable roots and herbs, must inevitably have perished, every soul of them, but what God said in Anger to Adam was in mercy fulfilled viz Thou shalt eat the herbs of the fields, when they continued about one year on this land, build small houses and huts and made other Improvements thereon, with their bloody sweat & labor and under the most greivous hardships & dayly hazard of their lives from the French & Indian Enemy's, as well as from those more dreadful ones, Cold & Hunger, severall Gentlemen Came to them from Albany, declaring they had bought that land of Gov. Hunter & if they intentioned to live thereon they must agree with them, to which demand these poor people answered. That the

land was the Kings and that they were the Kings subjects and had no power to agree to anything about his Majesty's lands without his special order, upon which these Gentleman said, Wee are Kings of this land, but the Germans reply'd that their King was in England, & that the land sho 'd not be taken from them without his Majesty's particular order.

"Sometime after did these gentleman send the Sheriff with some others upon the land and to take the sd Captain by force, dead or alive, but he having timely notice of it was on his Guard so they were prevented.

"These Gentleman finding the Inhabitants resolut in keeping possession of the lands, they had thus improved and from whence they drew the only support to themselves and famyls fell on an other project which was Clandestinely and basely to endeavor to sew Enmity betwixt them and the Indians and if possible to persuade them (for Money or Rumm) to put them in possession of the land and declare them rightful owners thereof, but in this they also fail'd, tho not without great trouble & charge to those poor people who were forced to put themselves on the mercy of the Indians by giving them out of their nothing and begg of them, that since they had so long suckled them at their breast, not to ween them so soon and cast them off.

"In the spring of 1715 the Gentleman from Albany sent a man to affix some papers on the land, Containing in Substance that whoever of the Inhabitants shou'd see those papers must either agree with them or leave the land.

"This with their threatenings being done in the Spring, the best planting time for Indian corn (the chief of their subsistance) damp'd the spirits of these poor people—slackened their Industry & did 'em great damage.

"In the year 1717 came the Governor to Albany and sent orders to the Inhabitants of the land *Schorie* that 3 men of every village shou'd appear before him on a day appointed and particularly the above mentioned Captain Weiser.

"When they appeared before him, he said that he would hang John Conrad Weiser and ordered them to answer him the 3 following questions viz:—

"1st, Why they went to inhabit the land *Schorie* without his order?

"2d. Why they would not agree with the people of Albany?"

"3d. Why they concerned themselves so much with the Indians?"

"Their answer to the first question was, that his Excell^{ty} had ordered them to shift for themselves & denied them further subsistence, the utmost necessity and poverty forced them to remove thither to earn their bread for the maintenance of their wives and children and that they continued their settlement on the same motives in expectation of His Majesty's Grace and His Excell^{ty} favor.

"When they mentioned his Majesty the Governor in a passion said What Great Britian & Mr. Leivinston added, here is yr King, meaning the Governor. Whereupon they beg'd his pardon, and that he would forgive them their Ignorance and Inadvertency.

"To the second question they returned their answer that the people were so many, the land so small and the wages so bad, that it was impossible to agree with the gentleman on their extravagant terms, especially after the vast expense and labor they had had, not mentioning, that the Indians had given it to the Crown for their use and that there was no direction immediately from his Majesty to confirm it to them, they being sent over with a promise of so much land pr head and if they served any body it must be the King and not a privat person.

"They answered to the 3d point, that because they lived on the borders of the French as a Frontier & were liable to their daily insults against whom they could scarcely stand, they were obliged to keep fair with the friendly Indians amongst whom they dwelt, which was the only way to be protected and live in peace.

"Governor Hunter then ordered that those who wou'd not agree with or turn tenants to those Gentleman from Albany, to whom he had sold the land for 1500 pistoles shou'd remove from their habitations and Improvements & that they should make two lists, one of those that wou'd agree the other of those that wou'd not agree with the Gentleman & and that he soon expected an order from England to transplant them to another place, but no such thing was performed.

"They then most submissively remonstrated

with the Gov. how hard it would be to leave & abandon their houses, lands and Improvements for nothing beside that they were indebted for other necessary's, thereupon Gov. Hunter answered, that he would send 12 men to examine their works and Improvements and give them money to pay their debts but it was never performed.

"The winter following they sent 3 men to New York to the Governor humbly beseeching him to grant them liberty to plough the lands or otherwise take care of them, but he answered, What is said is said, meaning the Prohibition of plowing at Albany

"This was a thunder clap in the ears of their wives & children and the lamentations of all the people increased to such a hight and their necessity's grew so great, that they were forc'd for their own preservation to transgress those orders and sew some Summer Corn and fruits or Else they must have starv'd.

"These Gentleman have thrown one of their women in Prison at Albany, who still continues there also a man for ploughing the land and will not release him till he gives One Hundred Crown's security, the same has also happened to others.

"The Governor sent orders, that all the Germans should take their oaths of being faithful and withal to pay 8 shillings pr head, which they willingly agreed to, in hopes of a settlement, but this with all the promices formally made, unto them was in vain."

[Endorsed] "Greivances of the

Palentins in New York

Rd Aug 20th 1722."

CHAPTER II.

THE FOREGOING CHAPTER REVIEWED—EXPENSE OF GERMANS—REVIEW OF THE GERMAN MOVEMENTS—LOCATED AT SCHORIE—THEIR HARDSHIPS—JUDGE BROWN'S ACCOUNT—FIGHT—INDIANS OF WHAT TRIBE—HUNTING GROUNDS—KA-RIG-HON-DON-TEE THE CHIEF—SALE OF LANDS BY GOV. HUNTER—SCHUYLER AND COEYMAN'S PURCHASE—GOV. HUNTER'S DEFENSE TO THE BOARD OF TRADE—BAYARD'S VISIT TO SCHOHARIE

—RESUMED LANDS—SHERIFF ADAMS—
 ADAM VROMAN—THE GERMANS TRESPASS
 UPON HIM—HIS LETTER TO GOV. HUNTER
 —THE FOURTH OF JULY SPIRIT—OFFICIAL
 CORRUPTION—HUNTER'S ORDER OF ARREST
 —WEISER IN ENGLAND—CONFINED IN THE
 TOWER—CLARK'S LETTER—JEREMY LONG'S
 COUNCIL FOR GERMANS—PURCHASE OF
 LANDS IN 1719—LOCATION OF WEISER'S
 DORF—OTHER DORFS—SPREAD OF SETTLE-
 MENTS—MODE OF LIVING—IMPLEMENTS—
 NEGRO SLAVES AND CUSTOMS—INDIANS—
 THEIR PETITION—NUMBER OF THEM IN
 SCHOHARIE—MILITARY AFFAIRS—DIVISION OF
 ALBANY COUNTY—EARLY OFFICIALS.

PERHAPS we have drawn too freely upon doc-
 umentary history to be pleasing, as it is con-
 sidered by the general reader to be uninteresting.

But we are aware that our County's history
 has been written—its life and character drawn,
 and long years ago its fac-simile impressed upon
 the minds of her people in a different light
 from that which the foregoing chapter casts, and
 to make such contrary assertions without proof,
 would be useless. Therefore, we produce these
 copies raked from dusty archives to prove the
 facts, and from them we glean much that must
 change the impressions that conjecture and tra-
 dition have made, however much we have been
 content with the well told and pleasing tale.

It will be seen that it was the intention of
 Gov. Hunter to settle the Germans at "Schorie"
 upon their landing at New York, as by his let-
 ter to the Board of Trade, he had sent the sur-
 veyors there to lay out their lots—also through
 the petition, that the Indians had given the land
 for that purpose.

It was so understood by the Palatines while
 in England, and we have not a doubt but they
 were made to believe that they were to have forty
 acres each with necessary utensils, immediately
 after landing, or they would not in their honest
 simplicity have so persistently petitioned to the
 Governor and King to that end.

But the officials required them to pay the ex-
 pense their immigration had incurred, in pitch and
 tar, before any farther movements were made.

Hunter's sole excuse for not settling them in
 the "promised land Schorie," was that it "would
 incur too great expense to maintain a garrison
 for their protection from the invasion of ye
 French and French Indians"—while he kept
 them at the camps at an expense to the govern-
 ment of from eight to twelve hundred pounds
 each month. After they came to Schoharie
 they did not cost the government a single farth-
 ing for their subsistence. The fact was, as Lord
 Clarendon wrote, that "Gov. Hunter fell in
 very ill hands" when he concurred in Mr. Liv-
 ington's scheme to employ and subsist the Ger-
 mans, and His Lordship's words proved true
 that "Livingston and some others will get es-
 tates and the Palatines will not be the richer."
 There was a speculation in the labors and sub-
 sistence of the Germans, and they knew it, and
 for their persistent efforts to obtain a recom-
 pense for their labors in desirable homes for
 their families and a plentiful amount of eatables,
 they were stigmatized by the officials as ignorant
 and willfully obstinate. In reviewing the peti-
 tion of 1720 and letters which we have copied,
 we learn that they landed in New York in June,
 1710, and were taken to Livingston's manor in
 the fall of that year.

In the spring of 1711 they commenced
 making tar and pitch, and in June following,
 three hundred of them joined the Canadian
 expedition. Here we will state that John Con-
 rad Weiser, Hartman Windecker and others,
 whom all writers agree were among the first
 settlers in the Schoharie valley—were on that
 expedition from June to October, which con-
 futes the statement of the Schoharie settle-
 ments being made in 1711.

During the winter of 1711 and 1712 many
 were sent to Albany to strengthen the garrison,
 while others were working "in the pines,"
 where they remained "nearly two years" from
 the spring of 1711. That "nearly two years"
 extended to the winter of 1712 and 1713, when
 Gov. Hunter's supplies gave out as seen by his
 letter to Mr. Cast, of September, 1712, granting
 them permission to work for farmers, and inter-
 preted by the Germans in the petition to "shift
 for themselves."

The sending of their "chiefs" (List-masters,) to
 treat with the Indians, must have been in

the fall, and the arrival of the first party in the Schoharie valley must have been after the 1st day of January, 1713, as we find, that "the same year in March, did the remainder of the 1st people proceed on their journey," showing conclusively, that all arrived in the same year, and not at an earlier date, than between the 1st of January and April, 1713. Then, we find the List-masters named here, at the Schoharie valley, where Middleburgh now stands, and then known as "Weisersdorf." The number that came is not known, but the fifty families that first sought the valley would number one hundred and seventy-five, according to the average of the whole, at the camps. But how many families came a short time after, or how many the "remainder that came in March" numbered, we are unable to say.

In 1718 a census was taken to obtain the number of inhabitants in the province of New York, and Joshua Kocherthal and John Frederick Hager were commissioned to report the number found along the Hudson, Mohawk and Schoharie. They reported seven villages or "dorfs" at Schoharie "consisting of 170 families, containing six hundred and eighty souls."*

Being located at "Schorie, the promised land," in the midst of winter, we cannot conceive the amount of hardships they were compelled to endure. Their petition expresses in a manner their deep troubles, but words, we know, were inadequate to "tell the tale." Arriving, as they did when there were three feet of snow upon the ground, without shelter or food and undoubtedly with but little clothing, in a desolate and unknown wilderness, with none to aid but a few half-starved savages, we, who enjoy ourselves so luxuriantly upon the broad acres they regenerated from the wilderness, are unable to imagine their critical condition. But with determined purposes, they overcame all obstacles. They lived upon roots and herbs, found so plentifully near the Indian encampment. But when warm, and gentle spring came, melting the snow and ice from the hills and valleys, with what heartfelt gratitude they must have returned thanks to the Divine Head for their deliverance from the frosty chains of unmerciful winter!

Immediately they commenced planting, and the

* Consult Chapter 16.

richness of the soil soon furnished them with an abundance of eatables. Brown, in his Pamphlet History, says that the first settlers came from the camps, by way of Albany, and upon arriving at the Helleberg, and enjoying ablutions by a creek, the lice washed off from their bodies floating down the stream, gave it the appellation of "Louse Creek." He also tells us of a free fight from some unknown cause between those pioneers. We do not wish to contradict so good an authority as Judge Brown nor will we deny that such proceedings were enacted; but it does not look reasonable, that the settlers whom we have followed from the camps in the depth of winter would have come by the way of Albany as at that time there was a road upon the east side of the river from New York to Albany, which would have made it useless for them to have cut a road through the woods as the petition states. Besides, at the time these settlers "proceeded on their journey, with snow three feet deep," and nearly starved, we cannot think they would stop to take an out-door bath on the summit of the Helleberg. While we are perfectly willing, indeed anxious, to accord to every object, whether man, beast, or louse, all credit due for acts, especially endurance, we cannot think that either the Germans or lice, could "stand the test" upon that mountain, in mid-winter.

Without doubt, some of the Germans that were sent to Albany to strengthen the garrison, joined their countrymen at Weisers in the spring of 1713 or '14, and being disappointed in not having an opportunity of displaying their "martial spirits" at the garrison by a conflict with "ye French and French Indians," concluded to have a private rough and tumble upon the mountain, and leave a mark of their "inroads," if not upon trees, stones and earth—upon ribs, shins and noses.

There was an Indian path leading to the Schoharie valley from the Hudson river near Catskill, over which the Stockbridge and Mohegan hunters and visitors travelled, that the first German settlers, no doubt, followed; as we believe they came direct from the camps, over hills and along valleys, without making the circuitous route by the way of Albany, and the "three weeks cutting a way through the wil-

dermess," was in making a road to intersect the Indian path at the nearest point from the camps.

Upon the advent of the whites, a small tribe of Indians occupied the Schoharie valley, but at what particular time they congregated, as a distinct tribe, or branch of the Mohawks, is not known. We can only conjecture and indefinitely date their organization from the time those tribes from which they came began to disband by the progressive march of the whites upon their possessions, or through repeated wars.

The "Schoharie Tribe" was a mongrel one, made up of different tribes, and numbering, according to Brown, about three hundred warriors.

The Mohegans, of the Thames and Yantic of Connecticut, were stationed in considerable numbers, near the present Middleburgh village.

The native tribe once numbered thousands, but by numerous wars with the Mohawks and Narragansetts, were reduced to a few hundreds.

At the death of Uncas, their venerated chief, in 1683, quite a number left the tribe and without doubt sought a home among the Mohawks, and were placed by them in the Schoharie valley.

Oweneco, the son of Uncas, succeeded his father as chief and with a few followers remained near the graves of their fathers, living upon the charity of the English, to whom their camps and hunting grounds were sold. In 1710, Oweneco died, and another scattering was made, and perhaps another addition to the Schoharie tribe.

A band of Stockbridge Indians, also, was here but could not have come as early as the Mohegans, unless they were refugees from the native tribe for misconduct or crimes, from the fact that the tribe remained nearly intact up to, or near, the year 1700. A squad of Tuscaroras, too, united with them, but at what time, tradition does not tell. In 1712, the Tuscaroras united with the Five Nations, but by a letter we read several years ago, written by an Indian trader in 1711, the tribe was represented in the valley at that time. There being a few of the Delaware Indians here mingled with the whole, perhaps the Tuscaroras came with them, led by the fascinating hunting-grounds, unless they were refugees from the council fires.

When we look over the hills and valleys of Schoharie, we cannot imagine but that they were once noble hunting and fishing grounds that would excite the envy of any Nimrod or Walton whether he were savage or civilized; and previous to the formation of the Schoharie tribe, we believe they were trodden by the Mohawk and Delaware hunters in quest of the abundance of deer, bears, foxes and panthers that were found here. For lovers of such sports to have built their wigwams upon such grounds, would not seem strange, but on the contrary very consistent. These different squads, with different dialects and perhaps customs, settled separately, but were subjects of Ka-rig-hon-don-tee, whom the Mohawks placed here as their chief. Tradition tells us that he was a captive Canadian Indian chief, and married a Mohawk squaw. Brown says, his "father-in-law sent him there, and gave him land, for fear that the Mohawks would kill him when they got drunk, as they bore a great enmity to the French." Allowing that the Mohegans came in 1683, the Stockbridges, in 1700, and the Tuscaroras a few years later, we can but see that the "make up" of the tribe was but a few years previous to the settlement of the whites. Various places through the County bear the marks of Indian encampments and burial places, that would lead us to think were far back of those dates. Undoubtedly the whole territory of the present County, was occupied by the confederate tribes and the Delawares, Stockbridges, Mohegans, Narragansetts, and many others, as hunting-grounds as far back as any other portion of the country. When the whites settled along the Schoharie valley the Indians were marked as being a revengeful, murderous set, which gives us the impression that they were the scum, as it were, of the tribes from which they came.

The Mohegans, as a tribe, were ever friends to the whites, but much to the discredit of the whites they many times proved traitors to the Indians' confidence in them.

The Stockbridge tribe, also, were a quiet and friendly people when used by the English with any degree of kindness and fairness, and the friendship of the Tuscaroras towards our struggling forefathers, through the Revolution, should suffice for us to think well of them.

In comparing the general characters of each tribe with their representatives in the valley, we cannot but believe that they were the outcasts from each, or, as termed by the white man's *code*, criminals.

To follow up traditionary tales of noble Indian tribes is a pleasing and interesting task and to the competent, doubly pleasing it must be to reverberate, to after ages, their heroic deeds and valorous exploits. But to chronicle the characters and acts of the Schoharie tribe would prove to be no embellishment to the meagre history of the "untutored savage." We have before us a deed dated Oct. 7, 1722, given by Adam Vroman to his son John, conveying a piece of land upon a part of which the chief resided. The writing states that, "I (Adam Vroman,) promised 'o several seachams when I bought the land of them, that Ca-ree-ah-dun-kah should be allowed to live where he now lives, as long as he chooses, and reserve for his' use, where he lives." The land was sold for "twenty morgans of land," and without doubt was that lying by the "Dovegatt," in Vromansland where the castle was built. The writer of the deed was an excellent penman, and to judge by the language used, a fair scholar, that would be apt to write the chief's name as pronounced by the Indians with whom he was conversant, with more accuracy than Judge Brown who came at a much later date, and wrote when at an advanced age.

After the Germans had been settled over one year and received many threatenings from the Governor and in fact had a few of their number imprisoned, Gov. Hunter sold to Myndert Schuyler and others the land upon each side of the river from a point above Middleburgh down the stream, to one on the same river between the old ferry opposite Sloansville and Esperance bridge.

It was intended to take in all the "flats" but the stream being very crooked below Jacob Vroman's—along the Lendrum farm and those adjoining, the lines ran *over* the hill, instead of keeping with the stream, (the points of compass not being changed.) The line bore considerably to the east of north and if continued on in the same course would have met the stream again below Esperance, but at a point upon the hill back of Lendrum's the course was changed nearly to the northwest, and ran to the river as before mentioned.

From the point the course was changed upon the hill to the Schoharie stream or confluence of the Cobleskill, a wide space was left unclaimed. Simms says: "Morris and Coeymans were sent to survey this tract, purchased by Schuyler and others, and finding this space not included in the grant, purchased the same themselves." But we find they did not take the whole of that space, but A. Van Cortlandt in 1753 upon a careful survey, found a tract lying between Schuyler's and Coeymans' not disposed of and purchased it.*

Hunter, knowing the fact of the promise of these lands in England to the Germans and that they were upon it and doing well—without cost to the government and it being unoccupied land, showed himself to be a very unjust and obstinate official.

* There appears to have been fourteen purchasers of the lands at Schoharie, among whom were several officials then acting, whose names did not appear in some of their transactions. We found an unpublished document in the office of the Secretary of State, under the charge of Mr. B. Fernow, (to whom we are indebted for many favors,) which we here copy, and which determines at what time the troubles were brought to a close:—

NEW YORK, Sept. 23d, 1722.

Gentlemen:

Mr. Van Dam informs us that you want our accounts concerning Schohare, it may be so; but is it not as reasonable that we should have yours. We are of the opinion with you that the affair should be bro't to a conclusion, And the Lands Divided. We know no better way to do it, than for you to come down and bring all your accounts, yours * * * interchangeably delivered we may then finish that affair if there be Power from you all so to do. We consent to a division of the Lands in 14 Equal shares that James Livingston to be surveyor appointed to that work on the terms already agreed on with him, that he or you may hire chain Bearers but that if any of you think to be present it must be at his or your own expense. That when the Survey to be made and the place of division be furnished, it to be sent to us and when any of you come to York on your Private affairs we will then draw lots for we are desirous to Save Expense as much as possible. Lett the Chain bearers be some of the Inhabitants of Schohare of good understanding whom you may hire cheaper than it will be to cary them from Albany

To

We are Gentleman

W. WASSENERS

Your Humble Serv

MYNDEERT SCHUYLER

RIP VAN DAM

ROBT LIVINGSTON

GEORGE CLARK

P. O. BENYAR

PHIL LIVINGSTON

JOHN SCHUYLER

In after years when questioned in regard to this act by the London Board of Trade, he wrote, "They went and took possession of the Lands, granted to several persons at New York and Albany, against repeated orders." While they "took possession of these lands against repeated orders," they were not sold to the New York and Albany gentlemen until the 3d of November, 1714; and he says—"in compassion to the innocent women and children, I prevailed with the proprietors of these lands to make them an offer of the lands free from all rent, or an acknowledgment for ten years, and ever after, at a very moderate quit-rent." It was these gentlemen, of whom the petition speaks, as trying to induce them to become tenants here, as they were at home, in Germany. But the Germans were not to be moved by sweet songs of selfish sirens, or entrapped by quit-rents for all time to come.

It was a short time previous to the sale of these lands that the Bayard, of whom Brown and Simms speak, came to offer free titles to all who would appear before his august presence with an ear of corn. Had such an offer been made, we think Gov. Hunter would have so stated to the Board of Trade, when he so faintly defended himself against the accusations brought forward by his enemies, as he called them. If Bayard *did* appear in the valley offering free titles, we believe he came without Royal Authority.

In Hunter's letter of July 24, 1710, we find that the surveyors were sent upon lands in Schorie, they being "resumed lands of Col. Bayard's grant." To explain the last quoted paragraph, we shall be obliged to call the attention of the reader to the "Report of the Board of Trade to Her Majesty in Council," as copied in Chapter I, which says:—

"Your Majesty was pleased by your orders in Council of the 26th of June, 1708, to confirm an act passed at New York the 2nd of March, 1693 and '9, for vacating several extravagant Grants, Whereby large tracts of Land have returned to your Majesty."

Farther on it speaks of lands "lying along the creek running into the Mohawk (Schoharie) which contains between 24 and 30 miles in length." This extravagant grant was given to

Colonel Nicholas Bayard, and taken from him, regardless of his official services, and undoubtedly his feelings were not very charitable towards the Government for so doing, and thought that by giving the Palatines free titles they would cause the Government trouble in their removal. He must have come for himself and not the Government, and the shame that Judge Brown felt in writing the account of the affair might have been saved, had he searched records instead of listening to the plausible story of the Colonel's descendants. Many such family traditions are related to show the ancestor's prominence, which, when stripped of the probabilities with which they are enwrapped, prove to be mere magic skeletons, "without form and voice." Not long after the purchase of the lands by Schuyler and others, Sheriff Adams of Albany was sent to dispossess the Germans and was rudely received and waited upon by the sturdy women of the settlements, as told by Brown in too plain English to be published here. In 1711, Adam Vroman, an Indian trader living at Schenectady, upon one of his expeditions purchased a tract of land of the natives now called "Vroman's Land." Not having the proper utensils for surveying it, he paced off the tract and called it four hundred acres, for which he gave one hundred and ten gallons of rum and a few blankets.

When the Germans came in 1713, they acquainted the Indians with the fact that the tract contained a larger number of acres, and that they had been cheated by Vroman. This caused them to possess an enmity towards him and to refuse to barter with him for his goods. For this act Vroman complained to the Governor in a very plaintive manner, and "desired him to attende to the seditious Palentines." He also applied for and obtained a grant of the land to him in 1714.

Instead of its being but four hundred acres, the grant gives the same tract an acreage of eleven hundred. In after years Vroman procured another title from the Indians, perhaps to satisfy them of his honest intentions. In 1715 Vroman commenced building a house upon his land, and the Germans being jealous of his purchase, or, in truth believing he was sent to "hem them in," as they stated in the petition,

took the responsibility of trespassing upon his domains in a very riotous manner; as will be seen by Vroman's letter, written from Schenectady to Gov. Hunter bearing the date of "the 9th day of July, 1715."

"May it please Your Excellency—

"As in duty bound by my last to you, I give your Exc'y an acct How the Palintines threatened In a Rebellious manner, If I should build or manure the land at *Schore* that your Excellency was pleased to Grant me a Patent for, and it Please your Excellency, I have manured a great part of the land, and sowed Considerable grain thereon; they still drove their horses on it by night. I then hired my sons to go with me, and build me a house. I was there and was making a stone house 23 foot squar, and had so high so that I had Layd the Beames for the Chamber. I, having at the same time an Indian house about 200 yards off, for myself, workmen, and negroe to sleep in, but on the 4th day of this Instant, In ye night, following, they had a contrivance to tie bells about horses necks, and drive them too and fro, In which time they pulled my House, Stones and all to the Ground. the next day I spok with some of them, and they used such Rebellious Expressions, that was never heard off; but they told me before now, when they done all they would run among the Indians. John Conradus Wiser has been the ring leader of all factions, for he has had his son some time to Live among the Indians, and now he is turned their Interpreter, so that this Wiser and his son talk with the Indians very often, and have made treates for them, and have been busy to buy land at many places, which is Contrary to your Excellency's Proclamation, and has made the Indians drunk to that degree to go and mark off Land with them; and I am no wayse secure of my life their, for after I came away, they went and pulled my son off of the waggon, and beat him, and said they would kill him, or his father or any body else that came their; so that my son was forced to come away. Likewise they say they care for nobody. John Conradus Wiser, and 2 or 3 more has made their escape by way of Boston, and have said they would go for England, but has left his Son, which is their Interpreter, to the Indians, and every day tells the Indians many lies, whereby

much mischeife may Ensue, more than we now think off, and is much to be feared, for the time I have been their, I have made a diligent scrutiny into all their actions, but I dont find a great many Concerned with this Wiser and his Son, in their disobedient, unlawful and Rebellious Proceedings. I am well Informed who are their cheifes; for those that are good subjects among them, and will not Joyn with them, are afraid the others will burn their houses down by their threatening words. And please you I could Enlarge much more of their misdemeanors but for fear of trobling yr Excellency too much, I shall beg your Excellency's pardon all this time, and Ever Remain your Excellency's most Humble and Obedient Servant to Command.

ADAM VROMAN.

Schenectady, July }
the 9th day 1715 }
In haste."

By this letter of Vroman's, we find him accusing the Palatines of getting the Indians drunk, which was an accusation brought against Vroman in the petition.

Much obstinacy, as well as ignorance, is shown in such acts, for which we are not apt to have much compassion. But in their case we must remember, that they believed that the Queen had given "*Schorie*" to them, and that by machinations they had been deprived of their rights, and that an attempt was being made by Vroman's settlement near by, to take advantage in some way of them, Vroman acting for others.

We have the story of both parties but we will let the reader decide for himself as to which was in the right. We know that Vroman had this advantage—any request of his to Gov. Hunter, would be granted while the Palatines petitioned to that dignitary in vain.

Knowing this they took the matter in their own hands, and upon the night of the ever memorable Fourth of July, "Rebelligiously pulled the house down, and trampled upon the grain."

Some spirit of "Rebellion" partial to the glorious Fourth seems to have been implanted in the Anglo-Saxon heart, years and years ago, that with just or unjust cause has given to monarchy—whether individually or collectively—a paralytic stroke, that will, in a few more years, cause its whitened and brittle bones to be laid away in

the seething pit which its avarice and cruelty have been constructing for ages to receive.

Living in these days of "official corruption, that stalks forth defiantly, even at noon's broad light," fearless of condemnation, as in its numberless friends is its strength and security and knowing the conspiracies, formed by such, to control and obtain the "Almighty dollar," we can but think, that a speculation in the labors of the Palatines, at the camps, was fostered by the officials, and engendered by Robert Livingston; and when they could no longer hold them at that place, measures were taken to make them a poor tenantry at Schoharie. They believed this, and in order to avoid it, acted accordingly, and when the "Council of His Majesty" received the petition, they also believed it, as one of them had given his views to that effect, over six years before. Passing on to the 22nd of July, the same month in which the trespasses were committed, the Governor having had ample time to receive Vroman's letter, issued the following warrant to arrest Conrad Weiser:—

"*Gentlemen* :—I am informed that one John Conradus Wiser, Covenanted Servant of His Majesty, who has been Guilty of Several Mutinous, Riotous, and other disobedient and Illegal practices, is now skulking in your county, to avoid punishment, you are therefore on sight, thereof, to issue your Warrant, for the Apprehending the said Wiser, and to cause him to be sent down in safe Custody, to the City of New York, that he may be proceeded against, as the nature of his Crimes shall require, hereof fail not.

"To the Justices of the Peace of the Co. of Albany, or any of them. To the Justices of the Peace of the Co. of Dutchess, or any of them."

Vroman thought Weiser had "gone for England," but, expecting that his arrest would be made, he kept secreted, no doubt, and did not go there until the year 1718. As soon as he arrived and made himself known, they found he was just the man they wanted, "the ring-leader of all Rebellious and illegal practices," and of course locked him up in the town. We have no proof that he was caught and required to pay a fine, or imprisoned for trespasses, before that

time. We think he had escaped all. But what a long list of "Crimes" was brought against him, all at once! Weiser had time enough, now, to ponder, and be *Wiser*, still.

Sitting within those massive walls that had once held the great and mighty, his case was a lone one and perhaps it was well that he was uneducated, and ignorant of the fate of his predecessors, as headless ghosts of Kings, Queens and other high officials, would certainly have made his confinement hideous.

While Weiser was perhaps cogitating upon the ills of human life, and sighing for the "reunion of friends" around the Schoharie hearthstone, though humble—the petition we have copied was laid before the council. Hunter was removed, and William Burnet appointed in his place as governor. Hunter, to prove that he had subsisted the Palatines, pursuant to the Queen's orders, sent a certificate to Secretary Clarke, requesting him to get them to sign it. Clarke put it in the hands of the governor and others, who told them, that unless they signed it, they should not have the lands promised them. The majority of them refused, and as Secretary Clarke wrote to Mr. Walpole, Nov. 27, 1722, "purchased land in Pennsylvania, and are determined to go thither, thus the Brigadier (Hunter) is balked, and this province deprived of a good frontier of a hardy and Laborious people."

The petition was before "His Majesty's Commissioners for Trade and Plantations" on the 6th of September, 1720, and "Jeremy Long appeared in behalf of the Palatines" and examined General Nicholson in regard to the promises made the Germans. He stated that he only knew "that he had three hundred of them on the Expedition to Montreal" and were subsisted while there, and as to the arms then used "he knew of no direction" in regard to them. Mr. Long being unable to make proof of any of the particulars set forth in the Petition, he was made acquainted that copies of the several papers relating to them would be transmitted to Mr. Burnet, Governor of New York Province, and it was observed to Mr. Long that it seemed "that several of the Palatins had behaved themselves very undutifully to his Majesty and his late Governor of that province."

Weiser was released, and as soon as he re-

turned, sometime in 1722 or '23, with several of his followers he immigrated to Pennsylvania upon the lands referred to by Secretary Clarke.

We have herein laid before the reader the circumstances connected with the first settlement of Schoharie, and given such facts as are of interest, relating to the difficulties the Germans experienced from their landing in America, to Weiser's grand retirement from the "promised land." Their troubles have been accorded to their ignorance, but we think too well of them and believe they knew too much for the scheming officials that were placed over them, to be trapped by their snares. The lands were purchased for a nominal sum in 1719 and 20, and a "spreading out" was made, and by the year 1730 they were settled in seven different hamlets, called "dorfs;" an appellation given in Germany to farm villages. Upon locating in the valley in the winter of 1713, it cannot fairly be supposed that they settled each of the seven dorfs during the same season, as tradition has intimated, as they were too destitute and uncertain of their lands. The first settlement was made where the beautiful village of Middleburgh now stands, and was named after the "ringleader of Rebellious practices," and known as "Weiser's Dorf."

The time from their arrival to the opening of spring undoubtedly, was occupied in building huts, and while they were being constructed they and their families were the "guests" of their Indian friends. If they had been located by Governmental agents or had been acquainted with the country we should not consider it strange if all of the seven dorfs had been established in one season, but being fugitives, unacquainted with the valley and destitute of the necessities of life, each depending on the other for protection from the Savages and assistance to build etc., we cannot think that they did otherwise than to begin at Weiser's, clear up building spots, erect huts, and all turn in to make a surety of raising eatables the season following and guard against another winter of "root diet." The fear of French Indian invasions, which had been an argument brought up by the Governor and his friends after peace had been proclaimed between France and England, to influence them not to think of settling here,

would naturally have caused them to keep together for mutual protection. Possibly those that came over in March were the followers of Hartman Windecker, and there being too many to live comfortably together established "Hartman's dorf" in the spring and obliged them to "solicit more lands of the Indian Kings." Another settlement was made about the year 1717 or '18 where Schoharie village now stands and was called "Brunnen dorf" also "Fountain-town." All records of this dorf with the exception of a bond and a few deeds are lost, or are in the dusty tills of distant families yet to be discovered.

They were more of a business class taken as a whole, especially the Lawyer and Schaeffer families, and to judge by their qualification as business men in after years, we do not believe they would have settled upon the disputed territory upon uncertainties. There were seven settlers at this dorf within a distance of three-fourths of a mile whose enterprise made the "dorf" the business centre of all others and laid the foundation of the county seat. A short distance below seven other German families formed a settlement which was distinguished as "Smith's Dorf," but at what time the settlement was made we are unable to tell. Undoubtedly as the Germans came from time to time from the Camps, New York City and the Mohawk they established "dorfs" or settlements and this, with the three below, Fox's and Gerlach or Garlock and Kneiskern were made or formed in that way. The papers relating to both Smith's and Fox's dorf are not to be found. We only know when Fox sold his possessions and moved away, but at what time he purchased or settled we cannot tell.

Fox's dorf was pleasantly situated upon the low ground east and north of the Stone fort and was in existence in 1728, as then the "High dutch Reformed church" was here formed. It was the first church organization in the County, whose history is interesting in the extreme, and may be found in Chapter XVIII. The Germans were a very religious people, and it cannot be supposed that they lived very long at this place without religious ceremonies. We may place Fox's and Garlock's settlements in the year 1718, and have

them full early enough, to correspond with their individual members' presence at other places.

"Kneiskern's dorf" was the most northerly settlement, and was at the confluence of the Cobleskill creek with the Schoharie river.

While the three last settlements' history is wrapped somewhat in darkness, the papers relating to this, are in a good state of preservation. John Peter Kneiskern, a list-master at The Camps and Captain in the Canadian Expedition of 1711, was the head man, and after whom the "dorf" was named.

In 1728, an article of agreement was executed by Myndert Schuyler, attorney for George Clarke, Secretary of the Province of New York, Philip Livingston and others for the lands, and in the year following (1729) a deed was given to, and received by the seven settlers; namely, John Peter Kneiskern, Godfrit Kneiskern, Philip Berg, Hendrick Houck, Hendrick Strubach, Johannes Merkle, and Lambert Sternberger, (at present Sternbergh).

A map and description of the lots was drawn in 1728, and signed by "Ed. Collins, Dept. Sup."

The deed describes seven homestead or building lots ranging from forty to fifty acres each; seven wood lots and an equal number of "low land or meadow lots." Thus, each homestead had a wood and meadow lot. The whole extended from the original Sternbergh farm (William Hallenbeck's) on the south, down to and taking in a portion of the island below the old Ferry, including the rich flats and some of the high land upon each side of the river. If this land had been settled by those purchasers at a previous date and a final settlement had just been made, instead of the homestead lots being marked with numbers and "Homestead" written, the names of those living upon each lot would have been put upon the map, as we have found it invariably to be in other localities.

In 1753, an article was executed by each of the seven settlers agreeing to "divide with and release each other of their possessions."

Up to that date the whole was owned in common, and as they made the division, each one received a deed from the rest of that which

they occupied and designated the same by the number upon the map and occupant, and as "one-seventh of the Kneiskern dorf."

In 1759, in the presence of Johannes Lawyer and John Newberger, an agreement was made "to stand together and make satisfaction in land, or otherwise, to him or her, that shall lose any part of their land by law,"—which gives us the idea of their anticipating troubles in regard to titles.

A farther history of this dorf and the descendants of the first settlers, with incidents connected, may be seen in Chapter XII.

The seven "dorfs" of which we have made mention, were the first German settlements in the present territory of the County. Additions were made from time to time by immigration from Germany and other German settlements in America.

In 1722, the third immigration of Palatines was made to our shores, and from it were some of the settlers of Stone Arabia, German Flats, and Schoharie. Owing to some unknown cause, for several years, they were not allowed to land at New York City, and were obliged to sail to Philadelphia, from whence many traveled to the Camps, Schoharie and Mohawk valleys, on foot, to seek friends and relatives who had preceded them to the new world, and found a land of plenty but much "droubble." Thus, in a few years, various other settlements were made, and from each an increase by births, as is very common among the Dutch, both high and low, and they "spread out" to rear homes for themselves, and ere many years we find that the "woodman's axe" had made several inroads upon the wilderness, principally along the valleys. The southeastern part of the County along the Schoharie river, was settled about 1750, while the valley of the Cobleskill and its branch the Westkill, was first settled in 1752 and 1754. The higher lands each side of the valleys were taken soon after; but those in the central part of the County not until after the close of the Revolution.

During the land troubles from 1713 to 1722 but little was done to improve their possessions, and after they were settled the Germans must have labored hard, as at the commencement of the Revolution the whole valley from above

Breakabeen down to and below "Kneiskern's dorf," beside a goodly portion along Fox's creek and Cobleskill was cleared and dotted here and there with large barns and commodious houses. Even the hills of Sharon, Carlisle, and Blenheim teemed with luxuriant growths of grain and grasses. A vast amount of labor it required to make all of those improvements, and when we consider the difficulties under which they labored for the want of utensils and many common necessities of life, we must give them praise for possessing the most indomitable wills and energies, such as had but few equals.

When the poor Germans first came to Schoharie their milling was done at Schenectady, and the grain carried upon their backs. It being a wearisome task, they devised the Indian mode of pounding the grain. A large stump was concaved to hold a peck or one-half bushel, into which the corn was placed, and a large stone or heavy wooden pestle fastened to the top of a bent sapling, was churned up and down to crack the kernels. The grain thus treated was mostly Indian corn, for the production of which the Schoharie valley cannot be excelled. It was the Germans' chief article of food, and by drying it thoroughly, this mode would pulverize it nearly as fine as the grinding process of more modern times. It is not to be supposed that they desired to make it the fineness of our bolted meal, for sugared Johnny-cakes and spiced puddings, but simply to crack the kernel in three or four pieces and boil until soft, as we do "samp."

Many of the "children" that commenced house-keeping in Cobleskill, Sharon and Carlisle, did so with very limited means. One family that we have in mind, built a log house, leaving a large maple stump in the center for a table. The top was made as smooth as possible with an axe, and the sides hewn down so the base would allow a near approach, and a large round dish was cut out, similar to a butter-bowl, in the center of it. There was but the man and wife, and it was only necessary to make a similar dish for each, only smaller, from which they ate their food which consisted of Indian pudding in the morning, potatoes at noon, and pudding and potatoes for supper. In that case the individual dishes or cavities, in the course of time

and high Dutch dexterity numbered thirteen forming a circle around the center dish, before the rude table was dispensed with for a movable one and a new house built. The improved tables were usually round tops, having hinges near the center upon the under side, attached to a square box serving for a base. When not in use, this piece of furniture was moved to the side of the room and turned up upon the hinges against the wall, thereby taking but little room. The box base was used for table linen, needle work, or odds and ends usually found in a careful housekeeper's work-basket at the present day. All cooking was done by a fireplace, the dimensions of which were, in most cases, large enough to use wood four feet in length and deep enough to receive a large log and one quarter of a cord of wood. The first bread was baked in a "bake kettle" having a cover, which was placed in the fire and covered with ashes and coals. The bread thus baked far excelled any of the modern baking, as all the virtue of the material of which such food was composed, was retained.

The "improvement" upon the mode of baking, was in building stone and mud ovens, in which a fire was kept until a bed of coals was made, upon which the "baking" was placed in stone or iron dishes.

While the house-wife's ingenuity was taxed to devise modes and means to do her work, and add to the comfort of her laboring family, for the want of proper culinary and other domestic utensils, the husband also was embarrassed to perform his work for the want of proper implements. Ease was a stranger to him, as everything must be done by hard manual labor.

The writer has a plow that was used nearly seventy years ago, and made as all were at and before that time. A wooden block hewn smooth, two feet in length and five inches in width, was taken as a base, to form the point of mould-board, attach a share and handle. One end of the block was brought to a point and sharp edge by cutting from the upper right hand edge, diagonally, and somewhat concaved. A hard wood stick was flattened and fitted to the concave, to form the mouldboard, and ran in line with the diagonal cut, with a spread of ten inches from the handle. A wrought-iron share with a

steel point was fitted to the point of the block with bolts. An "improvement" was made by covering the arm or mouldboard also, with sheet iron. Ten inches from the point, a standard, fifteen inches in length, was placed to support the beam, and six inches back of the standard, a single handle was mortised into the block, and run up four feet, to which the end of the beam was attached, fifteen inches from the block. The implement cannot do much better work than a single cultivator tooth of the present day.

Many young married couples started in life upon a heavy timbered farm, with nothing but an axe, bake-kettle and bed, and whatever was added to the stock in furniture or utensils, for many years following, was such only as they rudely manufactured themselves.

It may seem incredulous, but nevertheless it is true, the Indian corn was planted by making a hole in the ground that had been previously burnt over, with an axe or sharp stick, in which the kernels were dropped, or the wheat was sown broadcast, and in the place of a harrow, brush was drawn over the ground to bury the grain. When the grains were to be harvested, a sickle was used to cut them, a flail to thresh, and winnowing was the only mode to separate the grain from the chaff. Soon horses and cattle were used to thresh, and fanning-mills manufactured to clean the grain. We saw one that was used a short time after the Revolution, which was in itself a curiosity, and was capable of cleaning *twenty bushels per day*. The grain cradle soon took the place of the sickle, and in a few years, that will be laid aside to give place to our life-like reapers, as the flail and horse threshing have, to our modern threshers and cleaners.

At an early day negro slavery was introduced into the Schoharie settlements by the Vroman family, and slaves were kept by the Low Dutch for sometime before the Germans were able to purchase them. While we are loth to admit that the curse of slavery ever polluted our honored soil, yet we rejoice that its stain was not deepened by acts of brutality towards the enslaved, as is usually represented, but quite to the contrary. The negroes of both sexes were admitted into the family to which they belonged, upon equal footing with the white members. They were

chiefly the true African blood,—“black and shiny,” and appreciated the kindness shown to them by their masters.

It was the custom of the farmers to send them to market with grain, and away upon other business, regardless of the amount of money entrusted to them.

When the act for the abolition of slavery was passed by the legislature of New York in 1818, many of the slaves refused to be freed, and were kept by their masters, as long as they lived, receiving the same treatment as the rest of the “boys and girls.” The act liberated only the children of slaves as they became of age, but in 1828, a final abolition act was passed, which released all from bondage, and threw them upon their own exertions for support, which proved very meagre in most cases as they possessed a natural dislike to labor. Many of the former owners of the negroes, purchased lots and built small houses for the aged, especially at and near Schoharie, upon which their children may be found to-day. We are unable to give the number of slaves in the County when the “institution” was in full “blast,” but by the census of 1820, there were three hundred and two slaves, and two hundred and sixty-four free blacks. At present a greater number we believe of negroes may be found in the towns of Schoharie and Middleburgh than those figures show. To give an idea of the value of a slave in early times, we will copy a “bill of sale” now in the possession of Henry Cady:—

“Huntersfield, July the fifteent Day, one Thousent, Seven hundred and Tharty sex. Then Bouth of Storm Becker a negor man, and the said Storm Becker Grant the Said negor unto Peter Vroman for his one lawful saruant fore fortytwo pount Corrant Lawful money of the provance of new York. Wetness my hand and the present of

STORM BECKER.

CORNELIUS VROMAN,

MARTINES VROMAN.

July 15, 1736.

then Received of Peter Vroman the Just and ful sum of twenty pounds one shilling, Corrant Lawful money was received by me.

STORM BECKER.”

Each member of the family was allowed one pair of shoes in a year, the leather of which was usually tanned by the people themselves in a large trough filled with pounded oak and hemlock bark with a sufficient quantity of water to cover the hides. During the boy and girlhood of many now living the process was practiced and a clear recollection is had of being compelled to soak their bruised and chapped feet each night before retiring in the liquid thus made, to heal and harden them. Upon attending church, old and young, male and female, usually carried their shoes to within a short distance of the church or place of holding meetings and then stop to put them on, regardless of colors that the different kinds of dirt upon them would give; the daily wearing of stockings, to use the word of an old patriot, being of "modern invention" among the Dutch and German settlers, particularly the male portion. Cider, butter and loppered milk were unsparingly used, especially at logging and stone bees. A large quantity of maple sugar was manufactured by the farmers, and by grating or shaving it fine and sprinkling it over the surface of loppered milk, a desirable dish was produced which was greedily devoured by three or four that would surround the pan or wooden bowl with pewter and wooden spoons and skim the sugar off with such a quantity of thick milk as the taste desired. When all of the sugar had disappeared more was sprinkled on until the contents of the dish were annihilated. Much sport was enjoyed by the hardy settlers through the deprivations which they were forced to endure, and it is questionable whether we of to-day with all our modern conveniences enjoy life any better than did they. Many ludicrous incidents might be repeated that actually occurred which shows their simplicity and ignorance and which caused a vast amount of amusement.

As we before stated the number of Indians that were in the valley of Schoharie when the Germans came is not known, but they were considered by the white settlers as being the true owners of the soil and a brisk trade was kept up between them and traders from Schenectady and Albany. Blankets, trinkets and rum were the chief articles of trade on the part of the

whites, and land, fur and roots on that of the Indians.

The rum trade became very annoying to the Provincial officials as well as to the head sachems of the different tribes. Sir William Johnson's attention was drawn to the subject at various times by the Indians themselves and he referred the matter to Lieutenant-Governor Delancey in June of 1755. He says:—

"Sir Seth the head sachem of the Indians living near Shohary, and the leading sachems of the upper and lower Mohock Castles have made heavy complaints to me of the white people in those parts selling Rum to the Indians, represented the ill consequences thereof, and prayed that it may be prevented. Your honor I persuade myself is sensible, this Selling of Rum to the Indians has been ever attended with fatal consequences to the publick Interest with them, and at this Juncture, must be more than commonly detrimental. If an act of the Legislature cannot be obtained to prohibit this Sale of Rum to the Indians without any Limitation of Time, I do in the most earnest manner request your Honor, that you will apply to the assembly to form an act, with such Pains & penalties, against this Sale of Rum to the Indians, during the present situation of publick affairs, as may be (so far as possible) effectual to prevent it. Unless such a law is made, and the observance of it secured in the strongest manner, the General Interest in my humble opinion, will infallibly suffer, and those measures now in agitation for the Honor of his Majesty's Crown, and the Security & Welfare of his Subjects in these parts, be greatly embarrassed.

"P. S. There should be a clause in the act to prevent Peoples buying their Arms Amunition Cloathing &c or Exchanging." *

"Those measures now in agitation" referred to, were in gaining the Indians' consent to assist in opposing the invasion of a French army that was threatened upon the Mohawk. Ever since the white man set his foot upon the American soil, every advantage has been taken of the Indians by them in trafficking worthless trash for such commodities as were peculiar to the race, and which sold readily at high prices in the civilized world.

* Documentary History.

When the Indian could not be persuaded to bargain with the tradesman, rum was freely given him and while under its potent influence, whatever he possessed was easily obtained. Many of the finest tracts of land upon the Mohawk and Schoharie rivers were obtained from them for a mere trifle in that way and by the commencement of the Revolution, scarcely sixty years after his acquaintance with the whites, his hunting-grounds and even the soil upon which stood his wigwam were in possession of the white man. The same treatment we find meted to them to day, throughout the West, even under the knowledge of the government to which they look up as their Father. When they resist in their weakness, the encroachments upon their promised rights, the glittering bayonets of an army of annihilation, drive them to submit to every imposition that traders and agents feel disposed to inflict upon them. Allowing that the majority of the Schoharie tribe were refugees from the council fires of old tribes, it was no excuse for taking undue advantage of them.

After the Mohawks learned a few of the white man's tricks, they often proved themselves equal to like emergencies and as often showed a disposition to do right. We found a petition in the Secretary's office that was forwarded to Gov. Hardy in September, 1755, to a right a transaction in which they were interested as business men, without the power to settle the matter themselves. It is as follows:—

"To his Excellency The Honorable Sir Charles Hardy Esq., Captain-General & Governor in Chief in, and over his Majesties Province of New York & Territories Thereunto belonging Vice Admiral & Chancellor of the same.

"The Humble petition of the Mohawk Indians Living in Schoharie his Majesties Loyal Subjects & Soldiers Whose names are hereunto subscribed most Submissively Sheweth That your Honors ree Sold some pasture Land to Johannes Lawyer of Schoharie That lay Contiguous to two farms he had, one of said farms bounded with the land of Nickolas Mattice & the pasture and wood land Joining to said Mattice farm ye pet^{es} Excepted out of the sale made to Lawyer, having covenanted with Nickolus Mattice for that part that lay convenient to him. & when said Lawyer brought the Sarveyor-

General's Deputy to lay out the land ye Excellency's Pet^s by noe means suffer the Surveyor to lay out that land covenanted with Mattice, for a song with Lawyer. Except for Mattice use & then agreed upon, it should be for the use of Mattice. The Land was laid out, under one which made the coarse the easier for the Surveyor to run, all this very well known to the Surveyor and some of the principle men of Schoharie who are men of credit & veracity.

"Now Lawyer have gott a patent by which, he says takes all the land as well as Mattice as what we sold him & if so it is by folse & Injust Insinuation to the Secretary. Lawyer absolutely refuses to let Mattice have the land we reserved to him Except he bot it at a Extravagant prise, he also sent for us the other day to pay for the land and desired we should give him a Receipt in full in order to have to Shew he had a right for Mattice as well as his own in order to cloak his Injust dealings, which we refused, Either to take the money or give a receipt, May it therefore please your Excellency to Consider the premises, with the many agravating Circumstances & that your wonted Probity & Justice may be herein manifested by Rectifying the Injury done to y^e Excell^y pet^s & that Nicholas Mattice have his part of the land according to our Covenant & for y^e Excellency long life & prosperity yr Pet^s as in duty bound will Ever pray

LOWES CAREKE DUMTE
SETH CAREKE DUMTE
SETH CAREKE DUMTE Junior
HANS VRE CAREKE DUMTE
MARGRET CAREKE DUMTE
MARY CAREKE DUMTE
CATHREN CAREKE DUMTE"

The above were Mohawk Indians, and a like exhibition of fairness in their dealings, was made at Johnson Hall on the 9th of April, 1767, as published in the Documentary History of New York, in a speech by Abraham, one of the Sachems, before Sir William Johnson. He said:—

"Brother GORAH WARRAGHIYAGEY

"We are come to acquaint you with a very extraordinary affair which we were yesterday made acquainted with by some of our Neigh-

bors of Schoharee, and as it concerns us, We would be glad to hear from you the reason of such doings.

"It is concerning the Lands we sold when the Governor was at your house last fall, for the use of Hannis Lawyer & his associates, from whom we then received the full consideration for which we agreed, and now we understand that Lawyer and his friends, are to have but half of it—To us such doings appear strange, and I believe You would think hard of us were We to act so.

"We cannot therefore in Justice to these people (who have been long about that Tract, and at a good deal of expense beside the purchase money) allow the Land to be Surveyed for People with whom we are not acquainted neither did we hear of the least intention they had in purchasing them Lands, and if they had applied, we could not think of letting them, or any other sett of People have the Land which we had so long ago promised to the purchasers, which you may remember Brother, we declared to the Governor at the time the Deed lay on your Table ready to be signed, & gave our reason then for it, which together with the carefull manner everything was then done, we imagined there never could be any the least squabble about it hereafter, but in short Brother, we are sorry to see that the White People (who have more sense than we) will for the sake of getting land wrong one another, since that is the case, what are we Indians to expect from you.

"Brother, We have no more to say to the subject but to request you will let us know if you can, the reason for such doings. If you cannot, we would beg of you to Enquire of the Governor, who no doubt is acquainted with every thing relative to the affair, as it was transacted in his presence."

Writers variously estimate the number of Indians supposed to be residents of the valley from time to time, ranging from three to six hundred, but we do not think they ever numbered over the former, if as many.

The "Memorial Concerning the Iriquois," by the Rev. Chas. Inglis, written in 1770, and dictated by Sir Wm. Johnson, says at that date, "The Mohawks have three villages, Schoare,

Fort Hunter, and Canajoharie, they are all within the English settlement and contain 420 souls." The Schoharie tribe being much the smaller of the three, quite probably their numbers would not at that time number one hundred. The settlers of Schoharie were chiefly engaged in agricultural pursuits. Yet every able-bodied male over eighteen and under forty-five, was enrolled as a soldier. Sir Wm. Johnson was in command over all regiments north of the highlands, as Major-General.

Schoharie furnished a regiment that numbered, as far as we can learn, nearly three hundred, over which Jacob Sternbergh was colonel. Peter B. Vroman and Jacob Hager, were captains of companies several years, and did service under the Crown at Oswego, Niagara and Fort George. It appears that the former captain was a military man, and did but little else than perform military duty. Sir Wm. Johnson must have thought highly of him, as when a vacancy of a major in the regiment occurred in 1769, he repeatedly insisted to Governor Colden, upon his promotion to that position, and Vroman was honored by the appointment in 1770.

Previous to March 12, 1772, the whole territory of Schoharie was in Albany county, and at that date a line was established which gave the western part of the present county to Tryon, and the eastern to Albany.

A line was drawn from St. Regis upon the St. Lawrence river, to a point upon the south bank of the Mohawk, some distance west of Schenectady, it being the northeast corner of a lot of land granted to William Crosby, Jr., in 1735, running from thence to the Indian stone heap upon Bowen's tract, (near Sloansville,) and from thence to a pine tree, now a stump, in the Bear Swamp of Carlisle, which is the northeast corner of the "Dorlach" purchase, thence to Lake Utsayantho, in the town of Jefferson, and from thence following the Delaware river to the south bounds of the Province. All west of this line was Tryon county. The present towns of Sharon, Seward, Richmondville, and a greater portion of Summit and Jefferson, were in Tryon, and continued so up to the year 1784, when Tryon was changed to Montgomery, in honor of the patriot who fell at Quebec.

Previous to 1765 all civil officers of authority

over the Schoharie district were chosen from Albany, and the supervisor was to be chosen from the corporation. The people had no redress except by petitions which were frequently indited to the Governor, for his influence in their behalf. Who was the scribe we are unable to say. Each writing denotes a fair scholar, and nearly all seems to have been written by the same person.

The Lawyer family were business men, but there was a resemblance in their hand-writing, which was unlike the documents to which we refer. The omission of words by wear and fading of ink, renders all, with but one exception, useless to copy. After the year above mentioned, the Supervisor and Justices were chosen from Schoharie. Marcus Bellinger was Supervisor for several years but who, if any, officiated beside, we have been unable to learn.

CHAPTER III.

LOYALTY OF GERMANS TO BRITAIN—SACREDNESS OF OATH—MOHAWKS AND TOMAHAWKS—INDECISION OF MANY—ROUSED TO ACTION—SECRET MEETING AND RESOLUTION—FIRST COMMITTEE OF SAFETY—MILITARY DISTRICT AND OFFICERS—EVENTS OF 1777—DIVISION OF SCHOHARIE—MCDONALD'S INVASION—THE HARPERS—ADAM CRYSLER—SKIRMISH AT ORISKANY—BEMIS HEIGHTS—BUILDING OF FORTS—BATTLE AT COBLESKILL—MORGAN'S CORPS—CRYSLER AT TURLOCH AND AT VROMANSLAND—JOHNSON AND BRANT'S INVASION AT MIDDLE FORT—LOWER FORT—INCIDENTS—BRAVE WOMEN—COL. VROMAN'S MARCH TO MOHAWK—SETH HENRY AT "TURLOCH"—DOCKSTADER AT CURRYTOWN AND SHARON—WILLET—SETH HENRY AT FOX'S CREEK—CRYSLER AT VROMANSLAND IN 1781—CAPT. HAGER'S FIGHT AT THE LAKE—CAMPBELL'S AND SIMMS' LABORS—RETURNED TORIES AND INDIANS—MUSTER ROLL OF 1777—

SCHOHARIE SUPPLIES—DIVISION OF ALBANY COUNTY—INUNDATION OF SCHOHARIE RIVER—FALSE STORIES, ETC.

1344986

THE settlements of Schoharie, which included those along the Schoharie Creek and its tributaries and the sparse ones of Sewaid and Sharon, (old Dorchach) up to the commencement of the Revolutionary struggle had been quiet and progressive.

Occasional fears were aroused by the British officers as to the imagined invasion of the French and French Indians during hostilities between the English and French Governments. During all the wars from the time the Germans came across the ocean up to the Revolution, they and their descendants proved true to the English Government.

Quite a number from this isolated section, as before stated, took an active part in the contests at Fort George, Oswego and Niagara, where they did signal service. All of the companies were equipped with guns and the necessary accoutrements and drilled in a rude way, which proved to be a schooling for them in the use of arms when they needed such discipline in their struggle for liberty.

It must be borne in mind that both classes of Dutch, high and low, found in these settlements, were very conscientious as a mass, in their duty to God and to each other. One characteristic was more prominently displayed perhaps than any other; that of the sacredness of their word, especially an oath, and we find many who held military positions and had taken the oath of allegiance as is required by all governments, at the commencement of the war for Independence, refused to desert the Crown and make a stand against it on conscientious scruples, deeming that the oath was life-long and not to be forfeited. When friends and neighbors expostulated and when the excitement became great and led to threatenings, some removed to Canada and were quiet but others returned as invaders, while a few remained here until they were compelled to leave.

The descendants of those who remained loyal and sought safety upon Canadian soil may still be found living to the west of Niagara and near

Toronto. Those going from the Mohawk and Schoharie settlements and not taking an active part were called "Mohawks," while those who did return to murder and plunder were called "Tomahawks."

As we find families divided upon political questions to-day, so also many were divided upon the great issue at stake at that day.

But very few families existed but that some member or branch adhered to the Crown and much to the detriment of the character of the belligerents, the most heinous crimes were committed by such, especially upon their kinsmen. We do not like to chronicle upon the whitened page bloody deeds of more than demons, of fathers and mothers falling beneath the tomahawk of disguised sons, and brothers bathing their hands in fraternal blood. Oh no, we wish to pass them by, their stain is hard to erase, but such as chill the blood without creating a spirit of devotion to country and pride of brotherhood, should be cast out of the emerald pages which the American Revolution caused to be written.

It should be enough for us to know of the dangers, hardships and privations our noble forefathers experienced in the attainment of our liberties, to animate us to a just appreciation of them, and enough to give birth in us to a just pride in those patriots and homage to their spirit and principle by observing their unyielding devotion to country and unflinching patriotic endurance, under the most withering circumstances.

Many upon the extreme frontier, conceiving their numbers so few, and those of England and her Indian allies so great, thought it a foolish and ignorant step to undertake to cope with them. They were placed far from help, surrounded by Indians and enthusiastic loyalists, whom they believed would exterminate them if they chose the Colonial cause, and consequently were led to countenance British rule and aggression, when within their hearts a burning hatred existed. When the tide of events began to roll the almost wrecked ship of Independence nearer and nearer to the harbor of success, they began to feel a thrill of patriotic joy, and ere peace was proclaimed proved themselves active and staunch adherents to the new order of things.

Each one as now had a right to a choice, and we cannot condemn those whose sympathies were with the mother country, only in the manner in which the majority of them espoused the cause and mode of warfare. We cannot but give homage to one that stands up manfully and defends oppression, dictated by a true sense of its being just and right, as well as to him who does the same in what we consider a more just cause. But the one that clothes himself in the garb of deceit and sneakingly defends his cause and employs the most cowardly means to attain the end, and ruthlessly destroys the innocent and helpless, should be, and is condemned by all.

There were many such during the war, and their acts were heartless crimes that would make demons blush and we wish we might be privileged to pass them by.

While actual hostilities were going on in other sections of the country, the enemy to political rights did not pollute Schoharie soil with martial tread until the year 1777. But the people were not inactive. When the messenger traversed the winding road from Lexington to Concord, making the old granite hills of Massachusetts echo to the clarion notes of the bugle, "To arms!" and the noble few that faced the British regulars upon Lexington commons, poured their hearts blood upon the altar of Liberty and Independence these yeoman were not spectators to the scene. But as the notes of the bugle and groans of the dying patriots sent their echo from hill to hill, through valley and over plain, it aroused the sturdy ones to active and more determined purposes. Though weak in numbers and distant from the field of action, a deep anxiety pervaded every heart and each weighed the matter well. Citizens gathered here and there to discuss affairs and it cannot be supposed it was long before each knew of the others decision. It was at this auspicious moment that the patriots of Schoharie chose two delegates to attend a meeting to be held in Albany, to determine upon the actions of the future.

The meeting was secret and held at the house of Richard Cartwright, "inn holder," on the 24th of January, 1775, with Abraham Yates in the chair, and Daniel Budd and Peter Becker

as delegates from Schoharie. They drew up the following resolution:—

"Persuaded that the Salvation of the rights and liberties of America depends under God on the firm union of its Inhabitants, in a vigorous prosecution of the measures necessary for its safety, & convinced of the necessity of Preventing the anarchy and confusion which attend a dissolution of the Powers of Government, We the Freemen, Freeholders & Inhabitants of the city and county of Albany being greatly alarmed at the avowed design of the Ministry to raise a revenue in America & shocked by the bloody scene now acting in the Massachusetts Bay, *Do* in the most solemn manner Resolve *never* to become slaves & do associate under all the ties of Religion, Honor & Love to our country, to adopt & endeavor to carry into execution whatever measures may be recommended by the Continental Congress, or Resolved upon by our Provincial Convention for the purpose of Preserving our constitution & opposing the Execution of the several arbitrary and oppressive acts of the British Parliament until a reconciliation between Great Britain & America on Constitutional Principles [which we most ardently desire] can be obtained & that we will in all things follow the advise of our General Committee respecting the purposes aforesaid, the Preservation of Peace & Good Order & the safety of Individuals and Private property."

The foregoing was drawn by a committee and signed by sixty-eight, among whom were the delegates from Schoharie. The afternoon meeting of that day was attended by Adam Vroman, in addition as delegate of Schoharie.

Frequent meetings of committees and delegates were held at the same place and called the "Committee of Correspondence." They communicated with each other on the state of feeling with the provincial assembly, and Continental Congress, and on the 21st of March following, ordered donations of wheat, corn, etc., for the distressed citizens of Boston. A messenger was dispatched on horseback to that city to inform the patriots of Albany county's Resolves, and encourage them to remain staunch in opposition to British aggression.

On the 29th of April a "Committee of Safety" was appointed in each district who reported in person on the 10th of May, which was the first Committee of Safety in the county, and gave to the association formed on the 24th of January. the name of "Committee of Correspondence and Committee of Safety of Albany City and County." The same extended their powers and duties and were called in addition "Committee of Protection." Those first appointed in Schoharie were, Peter Vroman, Jacob Zimmer, Daniel Budd, Peter W. Zeilie, Thomas Eckerson and Johannes Ball. The latter was chosen chairman and filled the position to the close of the war. The second board was appointed on the 7th of November, 1775, and consisted of William Dietz, Lawrence Schoolcraft, Jost Borst, Peter W. Zeilie, Peter Becker, Peter Vroman and Johannes Ball. Associated with them from time to time, to the close of hostilities, were Samuel Vroman, Joseph Becker, Joseph Zimmer, Nicholas Sternbergh, George Warner and Peter Swart.

Deputations from Committees also from Congress and the Crown, besieged the Mohawk and Oneida camps to take decisive steps, and when it became known that the greater share of the Indian tribes, to whom the wilds of Schoharie were familiar haunts, espoused the royal cause, many hearts quailed, but there *were* men and *women* whose patriotism fainted not and who at once took decisive steps.

The duty of the Board was to gather all the information they could of the movements of the enemy, to prepare for the defense of the settlements and obtain supplies. Their meetings were held in secret and it is unfortunate that their proceedings were not kept. The counties of the province were divided into districts from which a regiment or more was expected, but the population of the frontier districts being very small and many clinging to the Crown, some of the regiments comprised but a few companies. Schoharie was attached to Duanesburgh to form a military district and by the records in the Adjutant-General's office at Albany, we find that the fifteenth regiment of militia was formed by order of General Schuyler, and consisted, upon the date of the commissions, of only three companies. The commissions bear date of October

20, 1775, and were given to the following persons:—

Peter Vroman, Colonel.

Peter W. Zeilie, Lieutenant-Colonel.

Thomas Eckerson, Jun., 1st Major.

Jacob Becker, 2d Major.

Lawrence Schoolcraft, Adjutant.

Peter Ball, Quarter-Master.

Co. 1. Geo. Mann, Captain; Christian Strubach, 1st Lieutenant; John Dominick, 2d Lieutenant; Jacob Snyder, Ensign.

Co. 2. Jacob Hager, Captain; Martinus Van-Slyck, 1st Lieutenant; Johannes W. Bouck, 2d Lieutenant; Johannes Lawyer, Ensign.

Co. 3. Geo. Richtmeyer, Captain; Johannes I. Lawyer, 1st Lieutenant; Martinus W. Zeilie, 2d Lieutenant; Johannes Lawyer Bellenger, Ensign.

The first company was organized at the lower part of the valley, at and near the present village of Schoharie. The Captain, George Mann, proved disloyal by aiding in organizing a loyal company. He was captured and incarcerated as a prisoner of war until the close of the contest, when he was released and not proving a very bitter adversary, his property was not confiscated. His command was filled by Lieutenant Strubach, who was promoted to a Major at the close of the war.

The second company was from the upper part of Vromansland, and the third, at and near Middleburgh. Another company was afterwards formed in Vromansland, at whose head was Tunis Vroman. After Vroman's massacre, Peter Snyder, living near the lower fort received the command.

At Cobleskill, also, a company was formed in 1777, with Christian Brown as captain, and Jacob Borst of the same place as lieutenant. The northwestern part of the County was in Tryon county until the year 1784, and a company was formed in 1778, at Rhinebeck, as "Tryon County Militia," of which John Matthias Brown, afterwards Judge of the county, was captain. But their number being few and surrounded by Tories, the company was disbanded and its members acted as scouts from the middle and lower forts, watching the movements of the enemy and taking disaffected ones to secure places.

Captain Brown, late judge, was lame in one knee, and was employed at the forts in doing general business for which his qualifications were well fitted.

During the years 1775 and '76, and the forepart of '77, these companies were employed at Fort Edward, Johnstown, and along the Mohawk, but did not leave the Schoharie valley without protection, as invasions were expected.

In the fall of 1776, an invasion was expected upon the Mohawk, from Oswego, and measures were at once taken to oppose it by the Committee of Safety. On the 9th of October of that year, the colonial committee convened at Fishkill, and appointed a committee "to co-operate with General Schuyler on devising and carrying into execution all such measures as they shall deem most effectual for repelling the invasion of the enemy's army on the northern and western frontier." The committee met at Albany on the 27th of the same month, "and had information of an invasion, and resolved to detach troops for the defense of the western frontier."* Captain Jacob Hager was at Albany with a detachment of fifty-five Schoharie militia, and on the 29th, the committee resolved that they "should return to Schoharie and hold themselves in readiness at a moment's warning, to march to the defense of the western frontier, whenever they shall receive orders from Col. Van Schaick, that they may contribute with the rest of their fellow subjects, who are now in arms, to the utmost of their power, in defense of the Rights and Liberty's of their Country." The company was called to Fort Stanwix, but not being employed, returned to Schoharie, where we are led to believe they remained during the winter, excepting at such times as they were acting as scouts and arresting disaffected ones, or those imbued with Tory sentiments.

During 1776, the British were encouraged by the success of their arms upon Long Island—New York City—Fort Washington, and Lee, and to break the chain of defense upon the northern frontier, would embarrass the colonists, and have a tendency to stop hostilities. A grand movement, therefore, was conceived and to be made in August of 1777, from various points. Gen. Burgoyne was to march at the head of the best

* Records Committee of Safety.

drilled and equipped army upon the continent, down Lake Champlain, while St. Leger was to devastate the Mohawk, from Oswego, at the head of a motley crew of Indians and Tories, whose knives and tomahawks were whetted for the most atrocious crimes, and whose ambition was fired by the royalty upon scalps that the British officers promised.

The movement was well calculated to discourage the stoutest hearts, and unless the greatest wisdom and prudence, besides patriotism had engineered the northern department, it would have proved a success. With these prospects before them, the Schoharie militia were divided. Some were to be sent to Gate's relief, others were expected to join Gansevoort or Herkimer.

The valley had been in a measure put under a state of defense and watch, by dividing it into sections and appointing men to oversee the arrangements. An order to that effect was made by the Committee of Safety as follows:—

"Schoharie July 7th, 1777. in committee chamber first resolved that all the persons between the ages of sixteen and fifty years, from the dwelling house of Christian Shaffer to northward in Schoharie are to bring their arms and accoutrements when they come to the meeting at either of the two churches in Fountain town to Fox's town on Sunday or any other day when kept, and if any of them shall neglect in bringing their arms and accoutrements to either of the churches, shall forfeit and pay the sum of *three shillings* New York currency into the hands of Johannes Ball, for the use of paying the cost for the district of Schoharie, or if any person shall not pay the said sum aforesaid, it shall be lawful for Mr. Johannes Ball to give a warrant directed to a sergeant or corporal, and levy the same on the offender's goods and chattels, and also the cost thereof.

"And all the persons inhabiting from the dwelling of Baltus Kryslar to the said Christian Shaffer are to bring their arms &c., to the church at Weiser's town, as they are ordered to in Fox's town and if neglected to pay the same to Johannes Becker and be put in execution by him as ordered by Mr. Ball aforesaid.

"And any person southward from Baltus Kryslar's are to be armed when they come to any

meeting that may be kept in Breakabeen and if neglected, to pay the fines to Mr. Wm. Zimmer, and to be put by him in execution as before mentioned, and for the use as aforesaid.

"N. B. Their resolve in Fountain Town Church is to be paid to Mr. Johannes Lawyer, and to be put by him in execution as within mentioned, and for the use as aforesaid, and George Warner is appointed to see that the inhabitants of Cobleskill bring their arms when they come to meeting there, and put their resolve in execution as within mentioned, and for the use aforesaid.

"Secondly Resolved that four watchers are to be kept in Schoharie every night from this time constant, the first to be kept at the dwelling house of Capt. George Mann, and under his command, and in his absence the next in command, the inhabitants from Christian Shaffer's dwelling house, and to northward are to be under Capt. Mann's command for the watch to consist of *eight men*. The second is to be kept at the dwelling house of Mr. Hendrick P. Becker, and under the command of Capt. George Richtmeyer, and in his absence the next officer in command. The inhabitants from Hendrick Jansen's house and so northward to Christian Schaffer's are under the command of this second watch, and to consist of *six men*. The third is to be kept at the dwelling house of Mr. Johannes Feak, and under the command of Lieutenant Martymus VanSlyck, and in his absence the next officer in command. The inhabitants from Baltus Kryslar's dwelling house and so northward to Hendrick Jansen's are under the command of this third watch and to consist of *six men*. And the fourth is to be kept by the inhabitants from Baltus Kryslar's and so southward to the dwelling house of Hendrick Hager, under the command of Capt. Jacob Hager, in his absence the next officer in command at this watch is to consist of *six men*. Every person or persons neglecting to serve on such or either of such watches aforementioned, shall for every neglect pay and forfeit the sum of twelve shillings for the use of the district of Schoharie."

All arrangements were known and understood on the part of the colonists, and a few had left to join Gates, when the valley was aroused by the knowledge of an army of invaders, but a

few miles up the valley, bent on sweeping down with fire and blade to meet with Burgoyne, St. Leger and Clinton, at the Whig city of Albany, to bask in the sunshine of success at the grand union of human vultures.

The invasion was a surprise, and in the great excitement the enemy's numbers were greatly exaggerated.

The Schoharie militia could not be recalled, and efforts were made to procure aid from Albany. Colonel Peter Vroman, says Simms, dispatched two messengers on foot on the 11th, and fearing they would be captured, Captain Hager and Henry Becker were sent the next morning on the same mission. Colonel John Harper* arrived the same day in the valley, and being fearful of the messenger's ability to procure assistance, at once set out on horse, but proceeded only to the present village of Schoharie, and

* The following is extracted from Campbell's "Annals of Tryon County":—

"In 1768, William, John, Alexander and Joseph Harper, with eighteen other individuals, obtained a patent for twenty-two thousand acres of land lying in the now county of Delaware. The Harpers removed from Cherry valley soon after, and made a settlement there which was called Harpersfield. This settlement began to flourish at the commencement of the war. Col. John Harper had the command of the forts at Schoharie, in 1777 and '78. The following account of a successful enterprise of Col. John Harper, was furnished by the Rev. Mr. Tenn, who received the information from him:—

"He informed me that in the year 1777, he had the command of the fort in Schoharie, and of all the frontier stations in this region. He left the fort in Schoharie, and came out through the woods to Harpersfield, in the time of sugar making, and from thence laid his course to Cherry Valley, to investigate the state of things there, and as he was pursuing a blind kind of Indian trail, and was ascending what are now called Decatur Hills, he cast his eye forward and saw a company of men coming directly towards him, who had the appearance of Indians. He knew that if he attempted to flee from them, they would shoot him down; he resolved to advance right up to them, and make the best shift for himself that he could. As soon as he came near enough to discern the white of their eyes, he knew the head man and several others; the head man's name was Peter, an Indian with whom Colonel Harper had often traded at Oquago, before the Revolution began. The Colonel had his great coat on, so that his regimentals were concealed, and he was not recognized; the first word of address of Col. Harper's was, 'How do you do, brothers?' The reply was, 'Well—how do you do, brother? Which way are you bound, brother?' 'On a secret expedition,' said Harper. 'Which way are you bound, brothers?' 'Down the Susquehannah to cut off the Johnston settlement,' they answered, (Parson Johnston and a number of Scotch families had settled down the Susquehannah, at what is now called Sidney Plains, and these were the people whom they were about to destroy). Says the Colonel, 'Where do you lodge to-night?' 'At the mouth of Schenevus creek,' was the reply. Then shaking hands with them, he bid them good speed, and proceeded on his journey.

remained over night. The Tories in the neighborhood, especially at and around Fox's creek, were jubilant over the prospect of affairs, and made an attempt to arrest the Colonel at his lodgings. Being a brave and resolute man, their cowardly spirits quailed before his stern address, and retired. As day dawned, he continued his journey, but was followed for several miles by two Indians, whose courage proved too weak for an attack upon him. He arrived at Albany in safety, and procured a company of cavalry, under the command of Major Wynkoop, and arrived in Schoharie on the next day (14th).

Stopping at Captain Mann's residence, they demanded his presence, but being on the alert, he was not to be found. Taking with them an Indian as prisoner from Mann's, who in attempting to escape was killed, the company proceeded

"He had gone but a little way from them, before he took a circuit through the woods, a distance of eight or ten miles, on to the head of Charlotte river, where were a number of men making sugar; ordered them to take their arms, two day's provisions, a canteen of rum, and a rope, and meet him down the Charlotte at a small clearing called Evan's place, at a certain hour that afternoon; then rode with all speed through the woods to Harpersfield, collected all the men who were there, and being armed and victualled, each man with his rope laid his course for Charlotte; when he arrived at Evan's place, he found the Charlotte men there in good spirits, and when he mustered his men, there were fifteen, including himself, exactly the number as there were of the enemy. Then the Colonel made his men acquainted with his enterprise. They marched down the river a little distance, and then bent their course across the hill to the mouth of Schenevus creek. When they arrived at the brow of the hill where they could look over the valley, they cast their eyes down upon the flat, and discovered the fire around which the enemy lay encamped. 'There they are,' said Colonel Harper. They descended with great stillness, forded the creek, which was breast high to a man. After advancing a few hundred yards, they took some refreshments, and then prepared for the contest—daylight was just appearing in the East. When they came to the enemy, they lay in a circle with their feet towards the fire, in a deep sleep. Their arms and all their implements of death, were all stacked up according to the Indian custom when they lay themselves down for the night. These the Colonel secured by carrying them off a distance, and laying them down, then each man taking a rope in his hand, placed himself by his fellow. The Colonel rapped his man softly and said, 'Come it is time for men of business to be on their way,' and then each one sprang on his man, and after a most severe struggle, they secured the whole of the enemy. After they were all safely bound and the morning had so far advanced that they could discover objects distinctly, says the Indian Peter, 'Ha! Colonel Harper, now I know thee; why did I not know thee yesterday?' 'Some policy in war, Peter.' 'A me find em so now.' The Colonel marched the men to Albany, delivered them up to the commanding officer, and by his bold and well executed feat of valor, he saved the whole Scotch settlement from a wanton destruction."

up the valley and met the Schoharie militia at the stone dwelling of John Becker, which they had barricaded with rails and timber, for a fortress. Here we will leave the first troops that visited the valley, expecting them to be admired by the uncouth yeomanry, as well as to be regaled by a few social mugs of "reviving spirits," such as the hospitality of every household, in those days presented, while we will reconnoitre the enemy's position, aim and strength. At the upper part of Vroman's land lived one, Adam Cryslar, upon the farm now occupied by Mrs. John S. Lawyer. He was a farmer who owned a large tract of land, and was a shrewd business man. He was commissioned Ensign on the 14th day of October, 1768, in a company of militia of which Isaac Vroman was captain.

In the year 1781 he made an official report to the British Government, which has lain in obscurity among his descendants in Canada, until quite recently, which we here copy in part as far as regards the invasion upon which we are dwelling. The report says:—

"I thought it my duty to get as many men and Indians for government as laid in my power, which will be seen as follows, and my proceedings.

"In March [1777] I had to maintain all the Indians which were at Schoharie in number 25, until the 10th of August. In the meanwhile I recruited all the men for Government that laid in my power being in number 70. In June I received a letter from Brant who desired me to remain at Schoharie in readiness until he came to me. On the 9th of August, Captain McDonald joined us with 28 men from Charlotte creek & I found them all in Provision for one day and night & from thence we went down the river about 4 miles to the lower end of Vroman's land where we remained one day & night & where we were informed the rebels had got a reinforcement and we thought it proper to retreat, until we saw a convenient place to make a stand, which was at my house; from whence I detached 35 men to intercept the Rebels at Breakabeen if they should take that route. In the meanwhile the Rebels advanced until they came to the place where we laid in ambush waiting for them, when we gave them a

volley, killed and wounded three men and nine of their light horse. At the same time we were informed they were 400 strong and we retreated back in the woods which was on the 14th of August, where we held a consultation and concluded, that with the small number of men we had, it would be needless to attack their increasing numbers which was already four to one, but collect all together and proceed to Oswego to the army, for which purpose Mr. David Brass (now Lieutenant in Corps of Rangers) went in search of the 35 men which were detached to Breakabeen, on his return he informed me they were all dispersed."

It will be seen by Cryslar's report that his and McDonald's force numbered but one hundred and twenty-eight if he had the whole force of recruits and Indians, but the patriots according to tradition estimated it to be between four and five hundred. The cavalry and militia having rested and having become acquainted with each other and the manner of attack, proceeded to give battle to the invaders. Not having any authentic account of the skirmish except the one already copied, we cannot give any plainer facts. As the Colonists over-estimated the strength of the invaders, so also did the invaders over-estimate that of the Colonists, as it could not have been in numbers to exceed one hundred. The stand made by Cryslar was upon the rise of ground near the house, and lasted but a few moments. After the volley was given by Cryslar's party the cavalry made a grand rush upon them and scattered their forces, which were not collected to renew an attack.

According to Simms, whose informants were in the fight, the patriots' loss was "David Wirt, a lieutenant of cavalry, and two privates wounded,—one Rose, mortally,—who died three days after." Farther on, the excellent author says truly "David Wirt was the first man that fell in Schoharie defending the principles of free government." The small and weary force returned to the rude fortress having the key of the gate to the valley safely in their grasp. The Tories that were so jubilant in the morning were silent, and those who through trembling, nervous fear, were led to join McDonald's and Cryslar's clan, repented of their choice

as the patriots placed an iron heel upon them, and forced them to do duty. Col. Vroman proceeded in the track of the invaders a few days after and found many that were returning to their homes, stating they were forced to follow them. While the Schoharie settlements were in the greatest consternation upon the Mohawk, St. Leger had found his progress impeded by as brave patriots as the world has ever known.

Brave Gansevoort held Fort Schuyler, while determined Herkimer at Oriskany, with gallant Willet's timely aid, and Arnold's cunning message, put to flight the barbarous clan.

Many of the "bravest of the brave" fell upon that historical day. They

"Fought eye to eye and hand to hand,

Alas! 'twas but to die;

In vain the rifle's deadly flash

Scorched eagle plume and wampum sash,

The hatchet hiss'd on high,

And down they fell in crimson heaps

Like the ripe corn the sickle reaps."

The Mohawk valley was saved and another army less to exult at the anticipated junction. Burgoyne laid down his arms upon the 17th and joy reigned supreme in the American camp.

The gloom that pervaded every patriotic heart but a few days before, was now dispelled, and all felt gratitude to the God of battles. All honor to the brave Herkimer, Gansevoort, and Willet. All glory to Arnold and Schuyler, whose laurels were plucked by Gates, and all reverence to the sturdy ones that stood before the exultant, well-fed foe—like the oak before the blast—unyielding, unflinching.

"O few and weak their numbers were

A handful of brave men,

But to their God they gave their prayers,

And rushed to battle then.

They left the plowshare in the mold,

Their flocks and herds without the fold,

The sickle in the unshorn grain,

The corn half garnered on the plain.

And muster'd in their simple dress,

For wrongs, to seek a stern redress.

To right those wrongs, come weal, come woe,

To perish or overcome the foe."

The reverses with which the British arms met at Oriskany, Breakabeen, Bemis Heights and down the Hudson, at once satisfied the most

intelligent and far-seeing of the loyalists, that it was useless to continue the struggle by force of arms to conquer the patriots in the Northern Department, and that it could only be done, if done at all, by cutting off supplies from the already poorly clad and fed army, and carry hostilities upon Southern fields. Therefore it was conceived by those in command to make invasions and devastate those sections from which large supplies were procured.

The fact was known by all the Tories, and boasts were made by them that nothing should be allowed to grow or be gathered, and their vigilant eyes were turned to the productive vales of the Mohawk, Schoharie, Susquehanna and even to the Wyoming. The patriots knowing their intentions, kept on the alert at every avenue leading to those sections.

The Schoharie valley being open, without any place but the forest for the people to flee for protection, Colonel Samuel Campbell of Cherry Valley, personally appeared before General La Fayette while at Johnstown attending an Indian Council, and petitioned for the building of three forts in the valley, each to be manned with a company of regular soldiers and a field piece. Accordingly engineers were sent out to locate and superintend their structure in the month of November, 1777.

The stone house already barricaded was surrounded by a moat and enclosed by pickets, and was called the "middle fort." About four miles above at the upper end of "Vroman's land," upon the west side of the river, another house was barricaded and a block-house erected, which was called the "upper fort." The stone church near Schoharie village was enclosed, two block-houses built, at diagonal corners, the same as the upper and middle forts. These three were nearly an equal distance apart and were well arranged for the people of the surrounding settlements to remove their valuables for safety and to find protection from the prowling enemies. Each was furnished with two small cannon and with such facilities as to warrant safety and comfort, yet would prove very inadequate at the present day to withstand the projectiles that would be brought to bear upon them by our well-disciplined and equipped soldiers. Within the pickets of each

fort the citizens built rude huts to which they resorted for safety each night from many miles around, deeming it hazardous to risk their lives upon their own hearthstones, as the prowling demons were at all times upon the watch to capture or kill the patriots after the battle of Breakabeen down to the close of the struggle.

Nothing more of importance (aside from the building of the forts) of a warlike nature occurred in the valley during the year 1777. It is well known by every one that the winter of 1777 was indeed a trying time to the provincial army. Washington lay at Valley Forge with his nearly starved and frozen army and the army of Gates at Bemis Heights, with meagre supplies.

The citizens of Schoharie furnished them with grains from their well filled granaries and assisted in transporting cannon, powder, and all other army necessities for the campaign of 1778. In the latter part of May of that year, when the earth began to teem with luxuriant grains and grasses such as are peculiar to the Schoharie valleys, the enemy was found lurking in the vicinity of Cobleskill. Captain Christian Brown knowing his force was too weak to cope with any considerable numbers, dispatched a messenger to the lower fort for assistance. Captain Patrick, with a company of forty regulars responded, and upon the first day of June he marched them together with the Cobleskill militia, only seventeen in number, about two miles and one half to the west of the present village of Cobleskill, to the "George Warner house." While tarrying for a few moments and enjoying the hospitality of that "committee-man," a few Indians made their appearance a short distance to the west. The small force pressed forward and was drawn into an ambuscade planned by the sagacious Brant.

The battle raged furiously for but a few moments as it was discerned that the Indians were surrounding them with untold numbers. Captain Brown ordered a retreat as it was found that Patrick had fallen, mortally wounded. In their flight, they passed the Warner house—in which a few noble ones sought shelter to retard the advance of the blood-thirsty foe.

After burning the house and inmates the invaders passed down the valley, leaving houses, barns, and stacks of hay in ashes, and such stock

as they found they either killed or drove along. Women and children sought safety in the forest and wandered to the Schoharie or lower fort. The patriots' loss was twenty-two killed and two made prisoners from their force of fifty-seven. The enemy's strength according to official accounts was about two hundred. Their loss is not known. This invasion cast a deep gloom over the Cobleskill settlement and caused the inhabitants to seek and remain at the Lower fort. The men cautiously returned each morning to do their work some time after, and walked the distance of ten miles back in the evening. During the year rumors were afloat many times, of the Indians' appearance to devastate, and the military officers at Albany were repeatedly called upon to send a force to Schoharie. We have the pay roll of a company under Captain Marselus of Colonel Lansing's regiment of militia that was sent in August, and was at the lower fort from the 15th to the 31st. They numbered, officers and men, forty-four. Others were here from time to time, beside the home guards and militia belonging to the district, which gave the inhabitants an assurance of protection, and which undoubtedly restrained the Tories and Indians from making another unholy visit. It was in July of that year the terrible massacre was made at Wyoming which chills the heart blood and which presented scenes that devils incarnate should be ashamed to own. It may be interesting to know the fiend in human form whose report we copied in relation to the invasion of McDonald, was present upon that occasion. We did not intend to diverge from the County's history, but being fortunate to obtain a copy of so valuable a document as the report of Adam Crysler, which has loomed up as a guilty conscience—to acknowledge deeds that had been placed against others and not being before published, we will repeat for history's sake what he acknowledges in regard to the affair:—

"In May, 1778. I received [Crysler was at Unadilla] orders from Colonel Butler to come to Canatasago, accordingly I did and brought nineteen men with me (who are with Colonel Butler's rangers now) at which time he made me a Lieutenant—and from there I went under the command of Colonel Butler to Wayomen where

we had an engagement and killed about 460 of the enemy and from there we went to Aughquaggy." Also we find he was at the destruction of Cherry Valley, and says:—

"In November I went under the command of Captain Butler (Walter Butler) to Cherry Valley and destroyed that whole settlement and returned to Niagara in December."

Hearing of such invasions and massacres it is not to be wondered that the people of Schoharie felt fearful and insisted upon the presence of soldiers.

Through the year 1779, also, the three forts were well supplied with soldiers, while the militia belonging to the settlements were busy scouting and foraging for the subsistence of the garrisons. During that season several despicable Tories were captured or killed by them, among whom was one Service, living upon the Charlotte who was in the engagement at Cobleskill and who furnished the invaders with provision. [See Summit.] It was in August of that year that Lieutenant-Colonel William Butler of a Pennsylvania regiment and a company of *riflemen* from Morgan's corps came to the valley and took command of the middle fort. Among the riflemen were the brave Tim Murphy and David Elerson whose strategy and courage won the admiration of the people, and who permanently settled in the County. Other equally as brave men came with them but did not either have an opportunity of displaying that characteristic, or had not the tact to impress it upon the mind of the people as forcibly. They were Thomas Boyd (who was ruthlessly butchered while on the Invasion of the Indian country under Sullivan in 1779, and whose ashes lie in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Rochester, as one of "liberty's martyrs,") William Leek, Wm. Lloyd, John Wilber, Frederick Ullman, (who afterwards joined Willet's force at Fort Plain,) Elijah Hendricks, Philip Hoefer, Richard Tufts, Derrick Hagadorn, Joseph Evans and others whose names have been lost. It is supposed all of the regulars that were stationed in the valley in 1778 and '79 joined Clinton's force to form a junction with Sullivan at Tioga for the destruction of the Indian towns to the west and north-west of that place. The Indians hung upon the rear of the army and among them were Captain Mc-

Donald and Lieutenant Crysler. The report of the latter says:—

"Went to Shemung where we faced the whole army of the Rebels and was forced to retreat to Oyenyanke (now Elmira,) where we attacked them again and from whence we retreated again to Niagara."

At the close of the campaign, Colonel Wm. Butler, with his followers, returned to Schoharie, where they remained during the winter, and which no doubt they appreciated as they were in a section, in which plenty and hospitality abounded.

Winter passed away with all its pleasures and hostile quietude, and the spring of 1780 came.

The farmers planted and sowed bountifully as their countrymen in arms were to be fed and clothed, and were looking to their spacious fields for a share of their subsistence. Already had large amounts been furnished by the unselfish patriots for such uses, without recompense, except the worthless currency that the distressed government had in good faith issued, and the slow but sure success of the cause of Independence. Liberty was the object, and their products, labors, privations and endurances the beaconage.

Burning under the chastisement Sullivan gave to them the summer previous, and acting under the command to devastate all points that gave the Colonial armies supplies, the Indians and Tories under their inhuman commanders, made several advances. The first upon Schoharie, was in July, under Adam Crysler, who appeared in Turloch (New Dorlach, now Seward,) and took nine prisoners, [see Seward.] besides horses and household goods. Crysler's report says:—

"On the 25th of May, 1780, I received Colonel Johnson's instructions to proceed to the Indian country, and collect all the Indians that laid in my power, and to join Captain McDonald, with a party of Rangers, to go to Schoharie. We proceeded as far as Oneida, where we had a consultation with the Oneidas, and brought of the Oneidas as far as Canasatego (Canajoharie,) where I turned back with seven Indians, and proceeded to Turlough, where I took nine prisoners, and returned to Niagara."

What caused the force to divide and not come in full, we are unable to tell. Crysler had a brother living near the scene of the "Turloch" transaction, who was a true "congenial spirit" in the unholy cause, and near him lived a staunch patriot, Sebastian France, whose capture was designed, but not being at home, they took the Hynds family instead. Had France been at home, undoubtedly what few colonists there were in the neighborhood would have been taken or killed, and their property destroyed. But they left this time, without doing so, to return in the future.

In August, of the same year, when the people of Schoharie Valley were busy upon their lands, and but few men were in the forts, there appeared a band of Indians, supposed to have been led by Brant, in the central part of Vroman's land, and fell upon the Vroman neighborhood, without notice, and killed five men, women and children, among whom were Capt. Tunis Vroman and wife.

We do not think Brant was in this invasion, as Crysler would have so mentioned, had he been. We find, when a superior officer was in company with him, Crysler invariably makes mention of it. He says, in his report referring to this massacre:—

"June 7, 1780, Rec'd. Colonel Johnson's instructions to proceed with a party of Aughquagas, &c., to Schoharie, where I had a skirmish with the Rebels, took five scalps, two prisoners, and burnt some houses and barns, lost one man and one wounded, from thence returned to Niagara."

Instead of only two prisoners being taken Simms says the number was about thirty. The old report of Crysler's was in a very bad state, dim and much torn, and a mistake might have been made in copying. It would be supposed that Crysler would make out as many as consistent that he might receive the pat of his superiors and the encouraging words "well done thou good and faithful servant." For further information in regard to this invasion the reader is referred to Fulton.

Scarcely had the embers ceased to glow where stood the prosperous Vroman settlement and the abundant harvest been safely secured from inclement weather in barns, barracks and stacks,

than the shadow of destruction was drawn over the valley and happy hearthstones destroyed. Colonel John Johnson and Brant, the much vaunted Mohawk chief, entered the valley in the early part of October following the invasion referred to, at the head of nearly one thousand British Regulars, Tories and Indians, bent on the despoilation of the valley.

It was very fortunate for the patriots' cause in the Schoharie valley that this invasion was not made at the beginning of the struggle, when so many were undecided which cause to advocate. Nearly all really were in favor of free government, yet they truly believed it was an impossibility to establish one owing to the superior strength of the mother government, and in rebelling they would forfeit their property and citizenship. The victory over Burgoyne, St. Leger and McDonald was the most fortunate affair of the whole war. It encouraged the firm, strengthened the weak and determined the majority of the undecided. It is a fact not to be denied that then, as ever before and since, and for all time to come, the majority of the people have, and will have, an especial eye to the security of their personal effects, above their political privileges, unless they are bound down to excessive bondage. There are exceptions it is true and especially during the Revolution. That of Hancock of Boston who urged the burning of the city and his entire property, if it would advantage the cause of Independence. Also of Mrs. Rebecca Motte of South Carolina, of Adams, Franklin, Washington, and others of less note. But we are speaking of the majority elsewhere as well as here in the valley, where dwelt a few whose patriotism could not be excelled. The enemy encamped above the upper fort and appeared opposite of it after daylight on the 17th of October. The garrison was commanded by Captain Jacob Hager, whose bravery upon all occasions was truly meritorious. The fort contained only about one hundred citizen soldiers, militia and regulars. Had Johnson known that it was so feebly defended he would undoubtedly have besieged it, but supposing it to be well strengthened and knowing its stubborn commander, besides it being the most impregnable against an armed force of either fort in the valley, they passed on to the middle fort, as they supposed,

without being noticed. Their rear was discovered and an alarm given from the fort by firing the cannon, which was heard at the middle fort and its occupants began to make ready to receive them. The middle fort's construction was the weakest of the three and Johnson therefore made an attack upon it, thinking that if either could be taken his chances were better on that, besides Colonel Vroman, the superior officer was within it, and if he surrendered the other two would be easily compelled to. It is very doubtful whether either Captain Hager or Major Becker would have done so if such had been the case, as they were men of pluck and energy, with the same characters to assist them.

The supply of powder at the middle fort was very limited, and perhaps the enemy was apprised of the fact through some pretended friends of the patriots. The garrison to which Johnson bent his steps consisted of two hundred Continental troops and about one hundred and fifty militia. The fortress was commanded by a Continental Major by the name of Woolsey, but he was either a coward or traitor, as he insisted upon giving admittance to the flag of truce, upon which Col. Vroman took command and made a bold and determined defense.

As soon as the signal was heard from the gun at the upper fort, that of the middle responded, and soon the echo of the ever-ready "grass-hopper," as Johnson called it, came from the lower fort as if to answer "aye!" to the roll-call. Those sounds, too, were the signals for destruction to the yeoman's well-filled barns, stacks and hearth-stones. As soon as they knew they were discovered they applied the torch, and the flames soon began to lap the precious fruits of faithful labor, as if jubilant to assist in the devastation. A scout was sent from the middle fort to learn the cause of alarm and met the foe near the present village of Middleburgh. A few shots were exchanged by the daring party and they returned to the fort with quick step to receive their visitor "outside the gate." The force passed the fort to the east and made a stand upon an eminence to the northeast. The Indians carried on the work of burning and plundering along the flats while Johnson's regulars made preparation for a bombardment. In relation to the siege, we will

copy from "Simms' Border Wars," as that author was fortunate in being personally acquainted with several of the actors in the conflict:—

"Col. Johnson had with him a small mortar and a field piece—the latter a brass six-pounder. The carriage for the cannon was carried in parts and required screwing together. They were made ready to fire at the stand he had chosen at Becker's Orchard, and a cannonading and bombardment commenced, while a constant firing was kept up with small arms, but generally at too great a distance for the latter to take effect. Three shells were well thrown from this position by the enemy at the fort, and many cannon-shot were fired but with less precision, the most of them passing entirely over the destined object. The first shell fired, sung in the air like a pigeon, and exploded directly over the house, and as its fragments fell upon the roof, Mrs. Richtmyer, an old lady, then in an upper room, who had been an invalid and unable to rise alone from her bed for a long time, was so frightened that she sprang from it and went below, surviving the effect but a short time. The second shell fell within the pickets near the well, and while the fuse was burning off and the ball dancing in a mud hole, every person exposed to its explosion had ample time to gain a respectful distance, and it scattered its fragments without injuring anyone. The third shell fell through the roof of the main building, and lodging on a pile of feather beds in the chamber, which were deposited upon several chests of bedding. It exploded tearing the beds in pieces, doing little other mischief, except that of frightening Christian Rickard, an old bachelor, who chanced to be in the room, almost to death. The explosion completely filled the room with feathers, and groping his way down stairs, Rickard made his appearance below, where many of the women and children were, covered with feathers, and spitting down from his mouth, which sudden fear had caused him to open too widely for such an atmosphere. When asked what had happened, he replied in Low Dutch: 'I think the Devil is in the chamber, for the feathers fly around so I cannot see.' The beds were set on fire but were easily extinguished, as water had been provided for such an emergency.

"After the firing had been continued for some time by the enemy and several shells thrown, it suddenly ceased, and a white flag was seen to leave the British ranks and advance toward the fort. The flag-bearer was accompanied on his right by an officer in green uniform, and on his left by a fifer playing Yankee Doodle. When the flag was discovered approaching, Major Woolsey gave orders to have it admitted, but not another officer in the fort, to their credit be it said, was in favor of its admission; and Murphy and Elerson, who conjectured *what their fate might be* should the enemy learn the actual strength of the garrison and succeed in its capture, determined, so the latter informed the author, that before the flag should enter the fort one or the other of them would shoot Woolsey himself. * * *

"When Murphy fired on the flag Major Woolsey was not present, having visited his quarters to prepare himself to enforce submission to his commands, for soon after he returned pistol in hand and demanded who had dared to disobey his orders? 'I fired on the flag,' said Murphy. Major Woolsey then threatened the brave soldier with instant death if he repeated the act; and the latter, who believed the willingness of the commandant to admit the flag proceeded from cowardice alone, retorted with warmth: 'Sooner than see that flag enter the fort will I send a bullet through your heart.' Seeing an evident disposition in all the officers present to sustain Murphy, for they rallied round him to a man, the Major walked towards the house. In this time the flag attended as before, had again advanced, and Major Woolsey had not proceeded two rods when Murphy again fired, and its bearer faced about and retired.

"During this parley the firing on both sides had ceased with the exception stated, and was not resumed until after Colonel Johnson from his great desire to get a flag into the fort, dispatched it by the same party a third time. It is possible that from his position he had, with a spy-glass, observed the movement of Major Woolsey. They had proceeded as far as at first however, when a third bullet from Murphy's rifle passed over their heads, saying in effect, 'thus far, but no farther,' and they returned to the ranks. The firing was then renewed."

While death stared the little band of patriots in the face and would have been a certainty to every one of them if the British force had been commanded by a brave and ingenious officer, that heroism was displayed by men and women that has been the admiration of the world for ages. Our own national orators and poets fondly, too fondly look back beyond our borders and far beyond our time to find commendable patriots. The history of Sparta and Athens is scoured to find examples to please the fastidious and radical minds, while among the common yeomanry of our country may be found examples that have not been excelled by any countryman, and which would have long since been enshrined upon public memorials if superior positions had been their lot. During the siege at the middle fort was displayed unflinching patriotism and bravery by the weaker sex that deserved mention and which add lustre to that memorable day. Angelica and Susannah Vroman's names may well be classed among the pure heroines of our country, whose chastity linked with their fidelity and activity in the cause of freedom, were as diamonds placed with sapphires in the crown of their characters.

During the siege they moulded the bullets that kept at bay the blood-thirsty enemy, and bravely stood by the side of their patriotic brothers, to repel an attack, and by voice and example encouraged them in their firmness. Another one, on that day, at the upper fort, when preparations were being made to repel the invaders if they returned from the middle fort, stood boldly before the captain who commanded the women to seek safety in the cellar, and declared, "*I shall not go into that cellar! Should the enemy come, I will take a spear, which I can use as well as any man, and help defend the fort!*" Mary Hagadorn took a spear and stood at the pickets until it was known that the enemy had marched on to the lower fort, and danger had passed.

When Woolsey was so boldly overruled by the riflemen, he sought freedom from the jeers of the women, as the same author says elsewhere:—

"The cellar under the kitchen part of the dwelling, was occupied as a magazine, and Colonel Vroman, to conceal the deficiency of powder, brought it himself, when wanted. As

powder was needed, the Colonel laid down his gun and sword, and went to get it. Near the cellar door he encountered Major Woolsey, who had just left the presence of the women, as may be supposed, in not very good humor. 'Major Woolsey, is this your place, who are placed here to defend the fort?' interrogated the brave Colonel. He replied, half dead through fear: 'Colonel Vroman, the men will not obey me, and I give up the command to you.'"

The bombardment continued only for a short time, and the little garrison answered only at intervals, as their stock of powder was very limited.

About three o'clock the enemy resumed their march down the valley to attack the lower fort, burning everything along the route, excepting two houses and the church and parsonage at Fountaintown, of which a more definite account may be seen in the chapter upon "Schoharie."

During the presence of the enemy in the orchard, several scouts went out from the fort, to defend buildings and other property, but were only successful in returning. The patriots were very fortunate through the day, as but two were mortally, and one slightly wounded.

Those that were known to be at the middle fort, were Major Woolsey, Colonel Peter Vroman, Mattice Ball, Peter Becker, Timothy Murphy, David Elerson, Christian Rickard, Samuel Reynolds, of New Jersey, (mortally wounded,) Jeremiah Loucks, (slightly wounded,) Doctor John King, (surgeon,) Nicholas Loughter, Lieutenant Martinus Zeilie, John Wilbur, Jacob Winne, (commissary), Samuel VanVechten, Douw Fonda, Captain Miller, of a company of Claverack militia, Major Ecker, Sergeant Lloyd, Richard Hanson, Peter VanSlyck, Martin Zeilie, Joachim Folluck, Adam Shell, Philip Hoefer, Tufts and Leek. A short time previous to the appearance of the enemy before the middle fort, Major Becker's messenger from the lower fort arrived with a bag of powder, which was opportune, and perhaps enabled the besieged to impress the ability to cope with upon the invaders. With the force that Colonel Johnson had under his command, he could have surrounded the garrison and forced a capitulation, or an entrance within the pickets, and why he did not is another one of the unexplained mili-

tary acts of that feather example of royal pomposity.

The main force kept near the river through Fountaintown, while small parties of Indians and Tories applied the torch to the dwellings, until they reached the present Schoharie Railroad station, when they divided to pass to the east and west of the stone fort, undoubtedly to burn the few dwellings that stood near. Upon their arrival opposite that fortress, they were received with that warmth which such braves as Major Becker are capable of exhibiting when required. Having only two small cannon, they were brought into service, especially the one upon the northwest block house. Trusty riflemen were placed in the belfry, and work began in earnest. The day before, this garrison received a supply of powder from Albany, from which a bag-full was sent to the middle fort. A few shots with small arms were exchanged, when Johnson's Regulars drew in view an object which the yeomen thought was a "peeled log," as a feint, but which, when arranged, proved to be a brass cannon. Shot after shot was made, but with what effect upon the enemy is not known, but upon the patriots the most pleasing. "The peeled log" lodged one ball partly in the plate, and partly in a rafter that rested upon the plate of the building. The hole may yet be seen, and is the only mark left commemorative of the invasion.

Major Joseph Becker, Captain Peter Snyder, Captain Christian Strubach, Ensign Jacob Lawyer, Jacob VanDyck, John Ingold, Senior and Junior, Jacob H. Shafer, Hendricus Schaeffer, Wilhelmus Entis, Anthony Broutner, Barney Cadugney, George Snyder, John Hutt, Jacob Becker, John VanWart, Jacob Enders, John Kneiskern, John Rickard, George Merenes, Christopher France, John Merckley and Wm. Kniskern, were in the lower fort upon that day, besides a company of Normanskill militia and Valley Associate Exempts, making a force of about one hundred and seventy men.

There were several women from the neighborhood, who sought safety in the fort, and whose courage was undaunted,—here as at the other, two,—among whom was the wife of Captain Snyder, whose assistance and encouragement were worthy to receive homage from the de-

scendants of that noble band that none can reflect upon but with patriotic admiration.

Although the invasion we have noticed was terrible in the extreme in destruction of property, laying the labors of years in ashes, yet the loss of life was small. Owing to the numbers engaged, a more modern military observer would think but little of the transaction, but when we consider the position in which the patriots were placed and the circumstances attending their position, their discouraging supplies, weakness in force, future prospects, etc., we cannot but think that, on their part, a stability of purpose, undaunted endurance, and determined patriotism, was exhibited that made the day memorable, their names immortal, and the occasion important.

The enemy encamped near Sloansville for the night, having laid over three hundred buildings in ashes, besides an innumerable number of stacks of both hay and grain. The Indians were guided by the famous Brant, and regardless of the eloquent defense of his character by his historian, the people of Schoharie, for this and other heartless crimes, hold his name in contempt. The very people that had extended to him brotherly hospitality, he robbed of their homes, and silently consented to deprive of their scalps. Blood, torture, devastation and ruin marked his course, if not at Wyoming, truly in the vale of the Mohawk, Schoharie and Cobleskill. At the latter place, especially, knowing that the aroused passions of his followers could be calmed by his orders, as a venerated chief, when such cruelties as those practiced upon the body of the gallant patriot, whose bowels were opened, and entrails wound around a tree, had he possessed a heart less hardened than a demon, he would have ignored such an act and forbidden it.

The following day Colonel Vroman collected all the troops that dared to be spared from the forts, and followed the enemy to the Mohawk. Upon arriving there they were united with the force of Robert VanRensselaer, whose disloyalty or cowardice restrained his army from gaining complete victory over the invaders near Stone Arabia, where the brave Colonel Brown fell. VanRensselaer's conduct upon that mission was, and should have been a subject of censure,

as by his dilatory maneuvers, the murderous clan was privileged to pass off to their rendezvous to gloat over their deeds and enjoy their spoils, and be encouraged to again invade the happy and prosperous homes of struggling patriots.

On the day following the invasion of the Schoharie valley—while the soldiers were skirmishing with the rear of Johnson's force, a party of Indians and Tories led by Seth's Henry, a Schoharie Indian, and Philip Crysler, a brother of Adam, appeared along the West-kill, in the present town of Seward, and after bathing their hands in the blood of Michael Merckley, his niece Catharine, besides two boys, they burned several buildings and led in captivity several inoffensive persons and passed off to follow the Charlotte trail to Niagara. A more minute account of this act may be seen in the events chronicled in the chapter upon the town of Seward, and which was but another lesson of the perfidy of the unprincipled demons that continually lurked around the patriots' homes through the days that truly "tried men's souls."

While we have poorly delineated the cause of the distress and anguish experienced, we cannot but feel our blood boil for revenge, and willingly excuse the hatred felt by the old veterans towards their tormentors. These trials whisper to our better judgments to prize more highly our political privileges, as well as our domestic safety and happiness.

The personal anguish cannot be told. The hearts that were pierced by those tragical acts only could tell in their painful beatings. Yet they are transcribed upon the "book of life" by the finger of the true God, which the pen of man cannot erase or excuse, and for which, trembling souls of tyrants must answer before the bar of the knowing Judge.

Not content, another demon in human form emerged from the Mohawk valley, like a vulture, with a horde of nearly five hundred Indians and Tories and pounced upon the settlement of Currytown, in Montgomery County on the 10th of July, 1781, under Captain John Dockstader. After their usual depredations of murdering, burning and plundering, they resumed their march and encamped for the night near Sharon

Centre. The gallant Willet of Oriskany fame becoming apprised by scouts of the enemy's presence at once set out with a much smaller force and gained a position at their front, without their knowledge.

Arousing the Indian camp early in the morning of the 11th, by sending a scout to intimidate them, they were led into an ingenious trap and from all sides received a volley that told upon their numbers. The superior military skill of Willet over Dockstader, and the unequalled bravery of his men, after a fight of two hours, put the enemy to flight.

Willet and his men, thoroughly aroused, followed them a distance of three miles with continued firing and caused many of them to make sudden departures to the spirit land. His own loss was but five killed, that of the enemy over sixty. Unfortunate would it have been for Johnson and Brant the year before, if Willet had Van Rensselaer's command.

Beside the invasions already alluded to, small bands of Indians usually led by Tories, from time to time appeared here and there, and took many prisoners. George Warner Jun., son of the "committee man," of Cobleskill, was taken in July, 1782, by Crysler, and his father and brother Nicholas, in December following by Seth's Henry and several Indians. Also the day before the capture of George Warner, Jun., the same band appeared upon Fox's creek, in the present town of Wright, and burned the residence and other buildings of Jacob Zimmer, killed his son Jacob, and one Hoever, beside taking John Snyder, and Henry Becker prisoners.

Early in the year 1781, the inhabitants of Schoharie and Cobleskill that were living some distance from either of the three forts—for their better protection erected three block-houses, where they might resort each night for safety, without traveling several miles and being exposed to murder or capture. The first was built a short distance east of Cobleskill, the second at Kneiskern's dorf, and the third at Hartman's, equal distances from the middle and lower forts. Each was enclosed by pickets, within which huts were built by private families, as at the main forts. The one at Cobleskill was built under the instruction of Colonel Deboise, a regular,

in command at the lower fort, and was named after him.

In November, 1781, a party came to the valley of Schoharie by the Southern route, and was supposed to be led by Brant, for the purpose of assisting the family of Adam Crysler to remove to Canada. But we are satisfied that it was not the intention of the invaders and that they were not commanded by Brant. Crysler made his report in December, 1781, and this invasion is the last one of which he speaks. It says:—

"Sep. 28 received Col. Johnson's instructions to proceed with a party of Aughquagas &c consisting of 28 men to Schohaire on the 10th of November when we came to Schohary we killed one man near the fort and drove off 50 head horned cattle a number of horses and burnt two houses. On our retreat the Rebels turned out with a party consisting of 30 men in pursuit of us. They overtook us about four miles from the fort and began to fire on us, upon which we returned the fire and killed one of their men on which they retreated and I went on with the cattle. The next morning the Rebels turned out the second time with 150 men and overtook us about twenty-three miles from the fort, upon which we had another skirmish and killed four of their men and some wounded, they retreated at the same time. We lost all the cattle, upon which I had a consultation with the Indians and they concluded not to pursue the Rebels since we were all safe and they too strong for us but make the best of our way to Niagara where we arrived on the 11th December and have since that time done the duties ordered me with satisfaction and spirit."

The object of the invasion, by the foregoing would seem to be for supplies to subsist the army upon. At all other invasions, the cattle were not driven away, but a few killed and a portion of their meat taken. The report agrees with the author Simms' account of the invasion as far as regards the skirmishes. The man that was killed near the fort was Isaac Vroman, father of Peter.

Seth's Henry was also in this party, and as Simms says, "dispatched his victim with a war-club, cut his throat, and with the bloody knife added another notch on the club, to the

record of the many scalps he had taken in the war, after which he laid it on the body of the murdered man and left him." "This Schoharie chief" continues the same author, "left a war club in the same neighborhood some time before, which recorded a most startling account of his prowess and cruelty."

The first skirmish was upon Bouck's Island and Richard Haggidorn was mortally wounded, and one of the Tories also was found near a few days after, supposed to have been killed at that time. The pursuing party returned to the fort and "Col. Vroman dispatched Cap. Hager" says Simms, "with fifteen or twenty Schoharie rangers, and a company of eastern troops, numbering about Sixty men under Capt. Hale. The command of the Americans was given to Capt. Hager, who, taking two or three days provisions moved up the river. The enemy as was afterwards ascertained, numbered between Sixty and Seventy. Indians and tories, under the command of Brant and Crysler."

The enemy was pursued to and found at or near the lake in the town of Jefferson, and as the same author says "on arriving at the lake, the road which was little more than an Indian footpath, ran along its margin. A ridge of land extended nearly to the lake where the Americans were approaching, and as they were rising the eminence, the enemy who were concealed near its summit, discharged upon them a volley of balls. The instant they fired, Capt. Hager commanded Hale who was marching in the rear to *'Flank to the right and march on.'* Hager intended to bring the enemy between his command and the lake, but Hale instead of obeying the order, faced to the right about, and followed by his men with but one noble exception retreated in double quick time.

"Brant and his destructives seeing the cowardly retreat of Hale and his men advanced to meet Hager, who was left with less than twenty men to resist a force more than triple his own. The little band had taken to trees and were beginning to return the enemy's fire at the time Hale retreated, but seeing that they must soon be entirely surrounded if they attempted to maintain their position, their brave leader ordered a retreat. On leaving the ground they were necessarily exposed to the fire of the ene-

my and Sacket, a Bostonian (the exception to Hale's men) sealed his bravery with his blood, as did Joachim VanValkenburgh, one of Capt. Hager's followers. Joseph, a brother of Cap. Hager was also wounded severely in the right shoulder, but the ball was extracted and he subsequently recovered.

"Capt. Hager with Murphy still at his side then ran to overtake the cowardly Hale, and after a chase of about five hundred yards overtook him: as both of them gained his front they placed the muzzles of their rifles at his breast and the Captain in a voice of thunder exclaimed *'Attempt to run another step and you are a dead man.'* * * * * *

"Having restored order and infused a share of his own fearless spirit in his ranks Capt. Hager was about to renew the pursuit as Col. Vroman arrived upon the ground with forty men drawn from the lower fort. After a short consultation the chase was continued, but still in ignorance as to the enemy's numbers. After proceeding about two miles and losing all trace of their footsteps, they having left the usual path for some unknown route, the pursuit was abandoned and the troops returned to Schoharie."

Various scouts were sent out from time to time and other small invasions made, but to speak of them here would but draw the interest from individual town history. The main incursions affecting the greatest numbers, casting a gloom over the greatest extent of territory we have drawn from Crysler's report and our local historian—Simms' "Border Wars." It was that author's fortune to communicate with many of the actors of the Revolution, themselves and the country's fortune that he embraced those opportunities of learning facts relating to that struggle that would have been lost forever.

One regret we harbor however, that the author was not equally a master of the pencil as well as of the pen, to sketch the portraits of those sturdy ones ere they passed away and crumbled to dust.

They would have been precious mementoes to hand down to future generations, as well as to embellish their history's pages. But we will not complain. Their patriotism we have recorded, for which all futurity is indebted to that author's

foresight. With a few individual encounters within the County, hostilities closed and peace was proclaimed in 1783.

Many of the Tories and Indians returned to their former homes, but the patriots' ire was aroused at the sight of them, and many mysteriously disappeared, especially Indians. Seth's Henry, the most venomous of the race, whose tomahawk and knife had done greater service in their unholy work, than any other, it was thought, felt the stinging power of an unerring bullet, while others were quietly wafted away by more unexplained accidental causes. Many of the Tories, whose bloody trail could be discerned, were victims of abuses in the form of whippings and other *feeling rebuffs*.

The property of that class was confiscated, which comprised whole neighborhoods in a few instances. Many sought Canada again, while a few remained to receive the jeerings of the people, and lived to be shunned by all.

We were fortunate to find in the possession of Henry Cady, (a descendant of Colonel Peter Vroman,) the well preserved muster-roll, bearing the date of 1782, which we here copy.

Many of those whose names are upon it, were active loyalists through the war, and why they were retained upon the list, we are unable to tell. It includes all that were liable to military duty in the whole Schoharie settlement, and will give an idea of the sparse population of the territory.

It will be observed that the name of Becker is spelled differently in the roll, as *Becker* and *Baeker*. The former were of High, and the latter of Low Dutch ancestry, although we believe a mistake was made in giving more *Backers* than there were in the valley. Quite probably the writer was Low Dutch, and spelled the name as he pronounced it. In regard to the Low Dutch branch, the reader is referred more particularly to the chapter upon events of "Middleburgh," as they located in that town, while the High Dutch settled in the present town of Wright.

No. 1.—YMathice Schults, Lieutenant, Jacob YSchultes, William YSchultes, Mathice Schultes, Jun., Stophel Warner, Stophel Warner, Jun., Mathice Warner, Jun., Jost Scheffer, Rudolph Cassman, Richard Schelmediën, Christian Bucken, Jury Pestshals, Peter Engel, Jacob Engel, Jacob Post, Phillip Steinbergh.

No. 2.—William Zimmer, Peter Witeman, William Witeman, Jacob Witeman, Jun., Adem Witeman, Isaac Larrawey, Jacob Larrawey, Hendrick Dalle, Peter Zimmer, William Ball, William Snyder, Hendrick Ball, Jury Schribner, Christian Sant, Johannis Delrig, John Low.

No. 3.—Jacobus Deitz, Adem Deitz, Adem Deitz, Jun., Hendryck Deitz, Jury Ball, Hendrick Crosspile, Counrate Swarts, William Becraft, Jun., Francis Becraft, Johannis Eker, Nicolas Eker, Johannis Cher, Jun., Peter Snyder, John Tomson, Charles Heflig, Jacob Heflig.

No. 4.—Jacob Heger, Captain, Hendrick Heger, Jun., Johannis Heger, Peter Heger, Dre-drick Becker, William Bouck, Christian W. Bouck, William W. Bouck, Hendrick Bouck, Michel Brown, Pieter J. Vroman, Adem J. Vroman, Harmanus Barnhart, Phillip Barnhart, Johannis I. Bouck.

No. 5.—Cornelius Feak, Lieutenant, Jacob Feak, Nicolas Feak, Johannes Feak, Peter Feek, Timothe Murphy, Hendrick Hagedorn, Barthelmeus Hagedorn, Johannis Hagedorn, Samuel Hagedorn, Adem Hagedorn, Abraham J. Becker, Adem Brown, Jacob I. Becraft, Coun-rate Mathice, Hendrick Mathice.

No. 6.—Peter Swart, Ensign, Martines Van Slyck, Lawrance Swart, John Whiliber, William Bouck, Jr., Nicelas Bouck, Lawrance Bouck, Frederick Mathice, Nicelas I. Mattice, George Mathice, Johannis Lawyer, Johannis Mathice, Adem Mathice, Peter A. Vroman, Johannis Tingmier.

No. 7.—Christian Stubrach, Captain, John Grenadier, Johannis Richter, Jacob Merkel, Nickelos Merkel, Jost Falk, Jost Sidney, Hendrick Sidney, Peter Sidney, Harmanus Sidney, Hendrick Stubrach, Barent Stubrach, Jacob Hilsinger, Jacob Granedier.

No. 8.—Johannis Dietz, Lieutenant, William Dietz, John Jost Dietz, Nicelas Sternbergh, Lambert Sternbergh, Jun., Davit Sternbergh, Abraham Sternbergh, Jacob Sternbergh, Lode-wick Breemer, George Phillip Snyder, William Ecker, Thomas J. Eckerson, John Kniskern, Jacob Kniskern, John Russway.

No. 9.—Peter Ball, Quarter-master, Johannis Ball, Mathice Ball, Harek Braymen, Hendrick Houck, Jun., Hendrick Houck, George Bienhart, Hendrick Merkel, Johannis Merkel, Jacob

Enders, Peter Enders, Johannis Enders, Hendrick Werth, Jacob Van Dyck, John Hess.

No. 10.—John Enders, Ensign, Jacob Enders, William Enders, Jun., Major Jost Becker, Johannis Hott, George Schelman, Johannis Becker, Jacob Becker, William Becker, Jacob Zimmer, Jacob Schoolcraft, George Becker, Adem Zimmer, Hendrick Hitsman, Johannis Hitsman.

No. 11.—Peter Snyder, Jun., Lieutenant, Lambert Sternbergh, Jury Snyder, Michel Hilsinger, Johannis Hilsinger, Michel Hilsinger, Jun., William Enders, Peter Enders, Johannis Finck, Peter Finck, William Finck, Peter Hilsinger, Peter Mann, William Mann, John Dominick.

No. 12.—Jacob Snyder, Lieutenant, Phillip Bergh, Abraham Bergh, Phillip Bergh, Jun., Adem Vroman, Peter Vroman, Jun., Johannis Eckessen, Cornelius J. Eckerson, Joseph Van Ingen, Jury Ecker, Jost Kniskern, Phillip Schkyler, John Schyler, Simeon Schuyler, Colonel Peter Vroman.

No. 13.—Laurance Schoolcraft, A. D., Peter Schoolcraft, Teunis Swart, Jacob Money, Phillip Van Alen, John Jacob Werth, Johannes Worth, Peter Snyder, Johannis Snyder, Hendrick Scheneman, George Hills, Stophel Hills, Johannis Rickerd, Marcus Rickerd.

No. 14.—Johannis J. Lawyer, Lieutenant, Johannis Lawyer, Jacob Lawyer, Jun., Abraham Lawyer, Peter Lawyer, Lambert Lawyer, Casper Storet, Johannes Lawyer, Jun., Jacob F. Lawyer, Jacob Lawyer, Nicholas Lawyer, Davit Lawyer, Hendrick Hanes, Jacob Hanes, Hendrick Hanes, Jr.

No. 15.—George Richtmier, Captain, Counrate Brown, Stophel Redich, Davit Lee, Stophel Warner, Johannis Enpolt, Teunis Scheffer, Johannes T. Scheffer, Marcus Scheffer, Philip Borst, Nicholas Rickerd, Jury Rickerd, Thomas Booth, Jost Schell, Christian Schell, Henry Counrate, Jun., Hendricus Scheffer.

No. 16.—Johannis L. Belleger, Ensign, Jost Lee, Antony Brentner, Jacob Jacobse, Johannis Borst, Martines Borst, Willham Loucks, Juriny Loucks, Andries Loucks, Johannes Bouck, Thomas Bouck, Davit Bouck, Nicelas Bouck, Cornelius Bouck, Jost Ecker, Counrate Counrate.

No. 17.—Martines N. Zielle, Lieutenant, Thomas Eckessen, Cornelius Eckessen, Major Thomas Eckesson, Jr., Teunis Eckessen, Jr., John Eckessen, Jun, Teunis Eckessen, John T. Eckensen, Joseph Barner, William Lake, Col. Peter N. Zielle, Peter VanSlyke, Barrent Vroman, Johannis Janekson, Hendrich Janekson.

No. 18.—Albertus Becker, Jun., Johannis S. Becker, Harmanus Becker, Abraham Becker, Johannis A. Becker, Storm Becker, Jun., Cornelius Van Dyck, John Van Dyck, Johannis Borst, Jun., Martines Pick, Peter U. Zielle, Jun., Peter U. P. Zielle, Peter Becker, Johannis D. Becker, Hendrick Courate.

No. 19.—Martines Vroman, Lieutenant, Albertus Becker, Johannes Alb Becker, Johannis Becker, Johannis J. Becker, Davit Becker, Jr., Jacob Borst, Jun., Marcus Belleger, Johannis M. Belinger, Lawrance Lawyer, Abraham Lawyer, Conrate Ingmier, Hendrick Borst, Johannis Bellinger, Marcus Bellinger, Jun.

No. 20.—Nicelas Warner, Ensign, Christian Brown, Captain, Peter Scheffer, Lendert Chursigh, Jacob Scheffer, William Brown, Johannis Bouck, Jr., Jacob Bouck, Peter Bouck, Jost Scheffer, Davatt Scheffer, Adem Scheffer, Hendrick Scheffer, Jun., Michel Huningh, Stophel Huningh, Johannis Huningh.

No. 21.—Hendrick Borst, Lieutenant, Baltus Borst, Jost Borst, Johannis Borst, Hendrick Scheffer, Lawrance Lawyer, Jr., Peter Scheffer, Jr., Lambert Scheffer, Johannis Scheffer, Michel Borst, Jacob Foster, Adem Scheffer, William Snyder, Michel Frymier, Davet Frymier, Phillip Lergher.

No. 22.—John Myers, Lieutenant, Daniel McColme, John Couch, Ellexander McColme, Michel Richter, Nicelas Richter, Hendryck Richter, Lodenick Snyder, Phillip Snyder, Hendryck Snyder, Davit Carsson, John Humphry, Benjamin Humphrey, Peter Kniskern, Barent Kniskern, Alexander McDayle, Relph Wertley.

No. 23.—John Casade, Sergeant, George Hattel, Johannis Backer, Abraham Brewer, Peter Brewer, James Morran, James Humphrey, Peter Young, Andrew Young, Phillip Sneyder, Jr., William McCatrick, Michel Hittser, Charles Werhley, Daniel Vanathwerp, John Vanantwerp, Andrew Young, Jr., Peter Vanantwerp, William Ricket.

As we have made mention, large quantities of grain, chiefly wheat, were sent from the Schoharie settlements to the army for its subsistence. The Committee of Safety superintended its transportation, which was accomplished with wagons and sleighs.

Several teams would be sent to Albany at a time and if other means were not at hand to send the produce on to different points where needed, the same teams were employed to carry it on, and it was not uncommon for them to draw produce to Fort George, Fort Edward, Fishkill and Newburgh. Washington once wrote after Johnson's invasion, "The settlements of Schoharie which alone was able to furnish Eighty thousand bushels of grain for public use," which seems incredible considering the small part of the territory that was under cultivation.

The fact became well known throughout the army and the Eastern States, of the adaptability of the soil to wheat growing and led many of the veterans and others to settle within the territory immediately after peace was proclaimed. The greatest influx was from 1781 to 1800, principally from Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey, who turned their labors and ingenuity to establish homes for themselves.

When the dark, pall-like cloud that had hung over the country so long was removed, the exultation of the people in these frontier settlements must have been great. No longer were they compelled to guard each step with the expectation that the coming hour or moment would find them mangled corpses or tortured prisoners, or fearful of witnessing their homes fall by the torch of the maddened enemy. Peace must have been a sweet angel to them as she spread her pinions over the land. Prosperity followed in her train, making the very hills and valleys resound with her exultant shouts. Forests once more began to fall before the sturdy and determined strokes of the pioneers. Order and contentment reigned where confusion and fear had damped the progress of every thing.

The present territory of Schoharie County from 1772 to 1791 was included in Albany and Tryon or Montgomery counties, but upon the formation of Otsego in the latter year that portion which belonged to Montgomery was

added to it. Those counties being large it became necessary to subdivide them and the Eighteenth Legislature while sitting in the city of New York formed the present Schoharie County.

Many blood-curdling tales have been told and written of incidents that occurred during the Revolution, that we are led to believe were fabrications. That acts were committed by the blood-thirsty Tories too heinous to be charged to human beings we have ample proof, but many such were highly overdrawn by different chroniclers, and even by the Tories themselves, after the war closed. The majority of that class were intemperate, and in their drunken sprees often boasted of infernal acts, but not without public castigations from the victorious patriots whose anger and hatred were instantly aroused at their recital. One story was often repeated by various ones, intimating that they themselves were the actors in the fiendish drama.

A party of Indians and one Tory entered a house and murdered the husband and father, and an Indian approached the cradle in which lay an infant, for the purpose of killing it, but the babe saw the glistening tomahawk and smiled, which so softened the Indian's heart that he relented and left it unhurt. The Tory saw the Indian's timidity and stepped up to the cradle, and with his bayonet picked it up as if the little body were an inanimate mass. With an exulting laugh he held the little form—struggling in its death throes—before its mother's eyes, and exclaimed to his companions, as she cried out in anguish, "See the old cow bellow for its calf!" This story was often repeated by William Monk and by the Caselman family of the Mohawk valley, and various other ones, each claiming the honor(?) of being the fiend. We have traced each family's story and find they are fabrications. The story is an old one, repeated during and after the old French war. Several years ago we found an old print, nearly ruined, in which was a picture representing the cruel deed of the Tory, with a long, harrowing article following, which began by stating it occurred "during the French war." Various other tales of like character have been sent afloat as Revolutionary reminiscences without

any more foundation than the one noticed, and we can but love to think they are untrue, and would that none such stained our history with innocent blood drawn by incarnate fiends, much less that such acts stand against our race.

When the upper fort was being built and made secure to hold prisoners, Martines Vroman and Lawrence Mattice, both boys, asked the privilege of Captain Hager, to bring one of the Cryslers as the first prisoner to the fort. Hager was fearful they would prove too weak to be successful and proffered aid, but they declined and reached the Crysler house about an hour before day. Creeping slyly within a few rods of the door they waited patiently for some member of the family to make their appearance. Soon Mrs. Crysler walked out and looked around as if to prophesy the weather, and was about to close the kitchen door, when the scouts rushed in with muskets cocked and demanded Baltus Crysler to surrender or they would shoot him. Seeing they were determined, he complied and was taken to the upper fort as the first prisoner incarcerated there. He was afterwards taken to Albany with several of his neighbors who gave "aid and comfort to the enemy."—[*A. L. M.*]

When Bartholomew Vroman and brother Josias were taken prisoners from Vromansland, the former was but twelve years of age and the latter six. When they arrived upon the Delaware, the prisoners and Tories who left the valley, numbered about sixty and until there had marched together, without order, but mixed up promiscuously. They were then separated, by requiring the Tories to sit upon a fallen tree together, and the patriots to stand opposite. Bartholomew whispered to his brother and told him they had better go and sit upon the log as Tories, and perhaps they would be passed over, as such, and escape ill treatment. They did so and undoubtedly began to feel secure, when one of their neighbors in whom the patriots had reposed confidence as a brother in the cause, came behind them and pushed them off exclaiming, "What are you doing here you damned Rebels?" They were rudely handled and sent into the patriots' row.—[*Ephriam B. Vroman.*]

The secret doings of the committee of safety and protection alluded to in the fore part of

this chapter were occasionally whispered to the enemy, a strict watch was kept by the true patriots to find the source from which it came, but they failed in so doing. Each member was then sworn (1777) and required to enforce every resident of their district to swear allegiance to the Continental Congress or quit the territory. In case either order was not obeyed, they were arrested as "enemies to their country" and incarcerated as prisoners of war. What estates they had were also taken for their and the patriots support.* In the Schoharie valley the order was enforced immediately after McDonald's retreat. The iron heel was placed upon the faltering ones and they were forced to submit to Colonial orders through the stern address of Captain Hager. One of his near neighbors, with whom he had lived many years in friendship, showed the "white feather" in some trivial affair, and the fact being made known to the Captain, he sent an order for him to appear at the fort. Instead of so doing he secreted himself upon the opposite side of the creek. Hager kept a close watch upon the family movements and found that the Tory returned to his residence early in the morning, and upon a given signal he was admitted by the family. Hager was passing from his house to the fort one morning before day, and concluded to give his neighbor an opportunity to redeem his character. He approached the door yard cautiously and gave a whistle with the thumb and forefinger, imitating the Tory. The wife immediately came out and Hager asked where her husband was. She replied he was not at home and would not be for a long time. The Captain then said he knew of his whereabouts and would give him six hours to appear at the fort. "If he did do so, a hair of his head should not be harmed, but if he did not, they would proclaim him a Tory, hunt him down and hang him to the first tree." The Tory appeared and was kept under watch at the fort and made to perform the duty of a patriot.—[*D. W. Hager.*]

After the flight of McDonald and his force, Captain Hager with a few of the militia that chanced to be at home, immediately joined Gates' army and was in the battle of Bemis Heights. John Merckley was a private under

* Committee's Proceedings.

the Captain, and when Arnold was ordered to relieve Gansevoort, he was drawn to serve under him. When passing over the Oriskany battle-ground the dead in their mangled condition presented a sickening sight, and so appalled the soldiers that not a word was spoken by them, but they marched carefully over them, each deep in solemn thought.—[*F. M.*]

CHAPTER IV.

FORMATION OF COUNTY—THE NAME OF SCHOHARIE — POPULATION — BOUNDARIES — SURFACE—THE SCHOHARIE AND TRIBUTARIES—INUNDATIONS — LAKES — FORMATION OF TOWNS—FIRST COUNTY OFFICERS—FIRST COURT HOUSE—POORHOUSE—PAUPERS—COUNTY'S PROGRESS—WAR OF 1812—DELEGATES TO STATE CONVENTION—POLITICAL—SCHOHARIE DEMOCRATIC—GOV. BOUCK'S MESSAGE — SOURKROUT MESSAGE — ANTI-RENT WAR — RAILROADS—PLANK ROADS—SEMINARY MANIA — SUSQUEHANNA RAILROAD—SCHOHARIE VALLEY—SHARON AND CHERRY VALLEY — HOWE'S CAVE ENTERPRISES — MINERAL SPRINGS — EDUCATION — RELIGION—TEMPERANCE—SABBATH SCHOOL SOCIETIES—BIBLE SOCIETY—MASONIC LODGES — AGRICULTURAL AND MEDICAL SOCIETIES—TELEPHONE LINES—NEWSPAPERS—CRIMINAL LIST—SUMMARY OF FACTS—POPULATION BY CENSUS OF 1880.

SCHOHARIE County was formed on the 6th of April 1795 from Albany and Otsego counties, and named Schoharie after the principal stream that runs through the territory of which it is comprised. Schoharie is an Indian name, and signifies, *Flood Wood*, according to the late Judge John M. Brown, who was the author of "A brief sketch of the first Settlement of Schoharie County," and to whom we are indebted for transmitting to us much that would otherwise have been lost.

We find the word Schoharie, written in various ways, viz: Skochalie, Schorie, Shore, (probably pronounced Sho-ree,) Schohare, Schoharry, Scorie and Schohary, and called by the Dutch, Shuck-ha-ry.

The Act of the Legislature in forming the County, gave to it the present orthoepy—Schohar-ie, which we must adopt as the name of the County, a town and village—whose associations are historical from the first tread of the white man upon the virgin soil, down to the present time, and with which are mingled the most glorious examples of patriotic devotion and endurance that adorn the annals of any history.

By an act passed April 3, 1801, to divide the State into counties, the boundaries of Schoharie were thus defined:—

"The county of Schoharie to contain all that part of the State bounded easterly by the county of Albany, northerly by part of the south bounds of the county of Montgomery, as hereafter described, westerly by a line beginning at the southwest corner of a tract of land formerly granted to John Lyne, and running thence the following courses and distances as marked by order of the Surveyor General, south twenty-one degrees and forty-eight minutes west, two hundred and nineteen chains to the place where Joshua Tucker formerly resided, thence south seven degrees and forty-eight minutes west one hundred and ninety-three chains to the easternmost line of a tract of land known by the name of Belvidere Patent, thence south nine degrees east, six hundred and ninety-five chains to a certain hill, known by the name of Grover's hill, thence with a direct line from the most northwesterly corner of Stroughburgh Patent, thence with a direct line to the most northerly corner of Harpersfield, on the Charlotte or Adegatangie branch of the Susquehanna river, thence southeastly along the north bounds of Harpersfield to the said lake Utsayantho and southerly by a line formerly run from the head of Kaater's creek, where the same issues out of the southerly side or end of a certain lake or pond lying in the Blue Mountains to the said lake Utsayantho, and by part of the north bounds of the county of Greene."

In 1836 a portion of Greene county was an-

nexed and at the present time the County consists of three hundred and seventy-five thousand, three hundred and thirty-five acres of land, and containing, according to the census of 1880, thirty-two thousand, nine hundred and thirty-nine inhabitants. The surface is an upland, broken by a northerly branch of the Catskills in the southern, and by hills of lime rock formation chiefly, in the central and northern parts. The rocks are those which belong to the Hudson River, Clinton, Hamilton, Chemung, Onondaga and Catskill groups and the Helleberg series. Among them are found many caverns in which mineralogists find interesting specimens, such as sulphate and carbonate of strontia, carbonates of iron and arragonite, calcite, satin spar, stalactites—translucent and solid, sulphate of barytes, black oxide of manganese, calstronbaryte, agarie, mineral and bog ore, besides an endless variety of fossils peculiar to the formations.

The Schoharie river flows a little to the east of the center of the County and empties in the Mohawk at Fort Hunter. Its tributaries are Fox's creek, Stony brook, Little Schoharie, Keyser's creek, Platner's and Manor Kill from the east, and Cripplebush, Cobleskill, Lime, Panther, West and Mine Kill from the west. The Cobleskill is the largest and rises in the town of Worcester, Otsego county. The pond from which it flows is on the height of land between the Hudson and Susquehanna rivers, which is fourteen hundred and seventy-five feet above tide. The Schenewus, a tributary of the Susquehanna, also flows from the same source to the west, thereby joining the valleys of the two great rivers by a grade of which the genius of enterprise has taken advantage and laid the "iron rails" along the waters' paths and opened a line of transportation, long desired by the agriculturists of western Schoharie, southern Otsego, Delaware and Chenango counties, besides giving the products of the coal fields of Pennsylvania another and more direct outlet to the Eastern States, northern New York and the lower provinces of Canada.

The Schoharie river makes a somewhat circuitous course. It flows from a small pond in the town of Hunter, Greene county, about twelve miles west of the Hudson, and taking a

western course enters the northeastern corner of Delaware county and turns to the northwest, where it finds an opening between the hills of Gilboa, and runs nearly north through Blenheim, Fulton and Middleburgh. Passing on through Schoharie in an east-northeast direction, it takes a sudden turn to the north and enters the town of Esperance where it again turns to the east-northeast and breaks through the southern watershed of the Mohawk and bears to the north to unite with the waters of that stream about nine miles from the county line, making a circuit of over one hundred miles, to swell the waters of the Hudson. From many elevations along its course the stream presents a picturesque appearance. Coming down from the lofty Catskills with rapid pace, winding around the base of giant mountains, gorging deep ravines in the sides of rocky hills and plunging over shelving rocks to deeper paths it appears at last in the broad openings of Schoharie County. Then again its serpentine trail may be traced among the evergreen hills that many times seem to be placed as barriers to its onward course, but finding a winding path it pushes on to emerge again in broad intervals, whose beauty and productiveness are rarely equaled.

The river and tributaries have many times overflowed the flats along their courses and done a vast amount of damage in the destruction of crops, land and buildings. The first of which we have any definite knowledge was in the spring of 1784, the year following the Revolution. The damage was so great the people petitioned to the Legislature to be exempt from taxation. The petition says:—

"The heavy rains caused the river to be stopped up with cakes of ice to the top of the banks which caused the river to flow over the flats and spoiled whole farms thereon."

Farther on it continues:—

"If you Don't believe us that we have suffered we pray your Honorable houses to send men who you may perhaps place confidence in, than in us, to take a View of our situation."

To make the petition more effective they refer to their losses in the war as follows:—

"Your petitioners have long endured the burden of a distressed war and are of the greatest sufferers in the State of New York. By

reason of living in the very frontier of the State, open to the Dayly incursions of a cruel enemy, & are destroyed to the utmost degree. The most of us not left with a building to go in to keep them and families dry from weather, and no money to erect buildings again. The Inhabitants of Tryon county are exempted from paying taxes. We think it Right. But at the same time We claim an Equal right with them and Rather more."

The next great overflow was in the spring of 1858, when houses and hay stacks were carried away, and broad flats cut up by the strong current. In the fall of 1869 another overflow did a great amount of damage, but was followed in the spring of 1870 by one of greater proportions, that did an immense damage in the destruction of farms, especially in the towns of Fulton and Blenheim. Other lesser floods have occurred which in individual cases proved disastrous, but those through which the valleys suffered the worst, as a whole, were in the years given.

Perched upon the hills of Summit, is a placid sheet of water, covering nearly one hundred acres, at an altitude of two thousand feet above tide. A similar pond that can hardly bear the name of lake, lies upon the southern bounds of the County, bearing the Aboriginal appellation of "Utsayantha."

Near the former, the Charlotte creek, a tributary of the Susquehanna rises, while from the latter, the west or main branch of the Delaware river takes its rise.

Throughout the lime rock districts, subterraneous streams are numerous, which appear at the surface, and after running a short distance, disappear to emerge again at some distant point.

Upon the formation of the County it was divided into six towns, namely: Schoharie, Middletown, Bristol, Blenheim, Cobleskill and Sharon. In 1801 Middletown was changed to Middleburgh, and in 1808, Bristol to Broome, in honor of Lieutenant-Governor Broome. There are at present, sixteen towns in the County, the names of which, with the date of their formation, together with the towns from which each was taken are as follows:—

Schoharie, formed March 17, 1797, from Schoharie, Albany county.

Broome as Bristol, formed March 17, 1797, from Schoharie.

Middleburgh, formed March 17, 1797, from Schoharie.

Blenheim, formed March 17, 1767, from Schoharie.

Cobleskill, formed March 17, 1797, from Schoharie.

Sharon, formed March 17, 1797, from Dorloch, Otsego county.

Jefferson, formed February 12, 1803, from Blenheim.

Carlisle, formed March 31, 1807, from Sharon and Cobleskill.

Summit, formed April 13, 1819, from Jefferson and Cobleskill.

Fulton, formed April 15, 1828, from Middleburgh.

Conesville, formed March 3, 1836, from Broome and Durham, Greene county.

Seward, formed February 11, 1840, from Sharon.

Wright, formed April 4, 1846, from Schoharie.

Esperance, formed April 4, 1846, from Schoharie.

Richmondville, formed April 11, 1849, from Cobleskill and Seward.

The council of appointment, by whom nearly all officers were appointed, convened upon the sixth day of June, 1795, and appointed the following as county officers:—

Joachim G. Staats, Clerk.

Jacob Lawyer, Jun., Sheriff.

Stephen A. Becker, Surrogate.

William Beekman, First Judge.

Adam B. Vroman,

John M. Brown,

David Sternburgh,

Jonathan Danforth,

Assistant Judges.

Being established as a separate county, and not having any public buildings, according to the records, the first Court of General Sessions "was held at the house of Johannes Ingold, inn keeper" upon the 31st day of May, 1796. Upon the opening of the same, thirty-two rules were adopted and afterwards printed, which may be found in the County Library. The following presided upon their adoption:—

His Honor Wm. Beekman, First Judge.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Adam B. Vroman, Jonathan Danforth, Peter Swart, Marcus Bellinger, | } Assistant Judges. |
|--|---------------------|

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| John Bauch, John Ries, Peter Snyder, | } Assistant Justices. |
|--|-----------------------|

Upon the opening of the court the following Assistant Justices were added and an adjournment made:—

Joseph Borst, Jun., George Richtmyer, Jacob Mann, Josias Swart and Storm A. Becker.

The first Court of Oyer and Terminer was held at the same place, the proceedings of which we will copy verbatim from the records:—

"Court of Oyer and Terminer held in the house of Johannes Ingold Inn holder on the 26th day of June 1796 Present His Honor Mr. Justice Lansing.

| | |
|--|----------|
| "Adam B. Vroman Jonathan Danforth Peter Swart John M. Brown Marcus Bellinger | } Judges |
|--|----------|

| | |
|--|------------------|
| "John Rie Peter Snyder Martines Zielie | } Ass't Justices |
|--|------------------|

"to ock A. M. Proclamation made and court opened. Proclamation made for the Sheriff to return, &c. Returns Precept to summons Jurors. Gran Jurors summoned and sworn, viz:

"Josias Swart Foreman, George Warner, Peter Shafer, Lambert Lawyer, Henry Weaver, Jr., Wardwell Green, Abraham Becker, Ichabod Griffin, Henry S. Haper, Peter Bouck, Silas Grey, Geo. Richtmyer, Walter Briggs, Nicholas Lawyer, David Bauch, Wm. Simmons, Abraham Lawyer, Jr. Grand Jury charged by his honor Judge Lansing.

"Proclamation made and constables called—Constables, Justices and defaulters excused by court from any fines at this time for their non-attendance.

"Proclamation made and Coroner called, appeared John Ingold, Jun., one of the Coroners. Returns an Inquisition dated 27th June 1796 by which it is found that Henry Parsons was found dead and came to his death by *mis-chance by the act of God*.

"The grand Jury returned into court and

presented the following bill of Indictment to wit:—

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| "The People vs James a negro man slave | } Indicted for Grand Larceny |
|--|---------------------------------|

"Prisoner arraigned. Pleads to the Indictment not guilty. On motion of Mr. Joseph C. Yates on behalf of Mr. Van Veghten assistant attorney general, Ordered that the Sheriff return the precept. The Sheriff returned the precept with a pannel annexed and the following Pettit jurors appeared and were sworn to wit:—

"John I. Lawyer Foreman, Jacob Becker, John Schafer, George Hiltz, Jacob Lawyer, Wm. Mann, Jeremiah Brown, George Snyder, Peter P. N. Zeilie, Hendrick Schaeffer, Abraham Bergh, and Henry Bellinger.

"Witnesses for the people
Jacob Lawyer Jun.
Josias Clark.

"The prosecutors fail in proof of the fact. Jury charged to find the prisoner Not Guilty. They withdrew, and return and say, 'That the prisoner at the bar is not guilty of the felony, whereof he stands indicted.'

In December of 1796, the Judges and Supervisors held a meeting to consider the building and location of a court-house and jail, but no legalized steps were taken until the Legislature by an act passed the 4th of April, 1798, authorized the Supervisors of the several towns "to raise by tax on the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the said county the sum of two thousand dollars for the purpose of building a court house and Gaol in said county with the additional sum of four cents in the dollar for collecting the same."

It was also further enacted—

"That Jacob Lawyer Jun. Jost Borst Jun. Peter Snyder, John H. Shafer and Wm. Thrall shall be commissioned to superintend the building the court house and gaol."

Something of a controversy arose as to the location of the buildings, many chose the present site, while others were anxious to have them placed nearly two miles up the valley. The Legislature appointed Abraham A. Post of Ontario, Alex. H. Buell of Herkimer, and William Duer of Oswego, as committee to locate and

who were influenced to decide upon the present site.

The appropriation not being sufficient to carry out the designs of the commissioners and Supervisors, an act of April 4, 1800, authorized the latter to raise the sum of one thousand, five hundred dollars to complete the work. The same act required that—

“It shall be the duty of the Sheriff of the County of Albany to deliver over to the Sheriff of the said County of Schoharie, all prisoners in his custody belonging to said County of Schoharie, whenever it shall be certified by the major part of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Schoharie, that the gaol is in a fit condition for their confinement.”

The fall of 1800 found the building occupied, but not completed, and an act was passed on the 21st of March, 1801, authorizing the further sum of one thousand, five hundred dollars to be raised for “completing the court house and gaol,” making the total cost of the structure five thousand dollars.

In 1845 the building was burned by George Burton, a prisoner, and was replaced by a more commodious structure the year following, which was also burned in the month of January, 1870. The present building was erected the same year, and is calculated to be fire-proof. It is constructed of blue limestone, having galvanized cornices and pinacles, and a more neat and substantial court-house, but few interior counties can pride themselves upon possessing. The jail is in the rear and was built in the fall of 1846, and escaped the conflagration of 1870.

In addition to the public buildings already mentioned, is the Poor House, a brick and stone structure, located nearly six miles to the south, upon the west side of the Schoharie river. In 1830 a farm of one hundred acres was purchased, and the building then standing upon it, though inferior, was used as the “Poor House.” The present edifice was built in 1838, under the superintendence of the building committee, Cyrus Smith and Peter I. Borst.

Soon after the purchase of this farm, a portion of it was sold, and the proceeds of the sale invested in a wood lot, which leaves but a trifle over sixty acres of tillable land, which greatly assists in the subsistence of the inmates.

The first keeper was Joseph Beck, under the dictation of three superintendents, appointed yearly by the Board of Supervisors. At the present time it is under the management of but one Superintendent, elected by the people triennially.

The average number of paupers, for the last five years, has been sixty-two, many of whom were once energetic business men with ample means, and well bred and affable women by whom fate has dealt harshly. While the majority of the remainder are those who belong to a class, to use the parlance of the people, known as “Slughters,” whose morality was lost long years ago, and not inheriting any principle, they have failed to find it, and instead, are content to eke out a miserable existence in licentious habits, until the winter returns, or their physical condition is such as to make them objects of care.

The country having dearly felt the bitter of contention truly enjoyed the sweets of peace and made an onward progression which far exceeded the expectation of the people of our own as well as those of foreign lands. Large accessions were made from Eastern States and European countries and each gladly united to advance and uphold the pleasing political and religious privileges they could here enjoy. The tide of immigration caused the borders to recede and far back in the wilderness and upon the broad prairies of the West the curling smoke of the enterprising pioneers' firesides shot upward as signals to lead others on to homes of peace, plenty and happiness. Within the limits of Schoharie County the same progression characterized every neighborhood in the beginning of the present century. Jealous of their freedom, every male inhabitant between the ages of eighteen and forty-five was considered a soldier of the country and was required to meet his respective military officers at such times and places as designated by them to drill in the use of arms and military tactics, that in case of war the country would be in readiness.

Perhaps a people could not be found that bore a greater, or as great a hatred to England, as the people of the Schoharie settlements, as a mass. The price set upon their scalps by the officers of that government forever alienated

them from recognizing a single redeeming quality in the nation, and when she dared to overhaul our vessels upon free waters in 1811 and '12 and beneath the stars and stripes that had been bathed in the sweat and blood of their fathers for an existence, and take our citizens and force them to vindicate the British banner upon foreign shores, it but rekindled their hatred and each act against the supremacy of the Government was taken as an insult upon them as individuals.

When the call was made to resist the English forces upon our Northern borders, Colonel Efner's regiment was summoned to report at Schoharie and upon reading the proclamation of the President quite a controversy arose as to who would go, and when the roll was called and draft made from it, many that were not included stepped forward to take the places of those that were drafted. The record or muster-roll is very inaccurate, as it does not give the additions that were afterwards made to the regiment by enlisting as hostilities progressed.

Lieutenant William Elmandorf, as will be more definitely mentioned in Cobleskill, enlisted a company of artillery from Sharon, Cobleskill and Carlisle under Captain Josias Kellogg, and united with companies from Montgomery county, under Colonel Forsyth. They were at Oswego, Sackett's Harbor and Ogdensburgh, and remained in service until the close of the war, returning with nearly all their number, but bearing many wounds. They assisted in the destruction of British stores at Gananoque in Canada, and repulsed the British forces at Ogdensburgh on the 2d of October, 1812, being in numbers only four hundred against a force of one thousand disciplined troops. Besides this engagement, Lieutenant Elmandorf's biographer mentions others in number ten as above referred.

The company's enrollment is lost, but as far as we have been able to glean, the following were the volunteers:—Josias Kellogg, Captain, Wm. Elmandorf, Lieutenant, Jacob L. Lawyer, Corporal, David Lawyer, Marcus Warner, John Mickel, William Young, John Hyney, Joshua Ward, David Fraats, John Fox, Daniel Brown, Elias and Aaron Malick, Charles Gordon, Matthias Young.

In the season of 1813 Deidrick VanVeghten, editor of the *Schoharie Herald*, being clothed with a captain's commission, recruited a company at Schoharie village, and during the winter of that year was stationed at Schenectady to guard army supplies that were there stored. In the following spring, he joined Gen. VanRensselaer's regiment and was promoted to Major. In an engagement upon the border he was sent forward with his company, by the General, to make an attack upon the enemy with the assurance of relief. But after a bloody fight the Major and force were taken prisoners without any effort upon the part of VanRensselaer to send relief. He and his men were incarcerated at Chambly in a stone building, whose windows were too high to be reached by the men, and after lying there a few months an escape was effected. VanVeghten being a tall man, ordered each of his men to climb upon his shoulders and escape through the window. They did so leaving only himself in prison.

Many of the soldiers from Schoharie died by the epidemic that prevailed in 1813 and 1814, especially while in camp at Plattsburgh and Sackett's Harbor. At one time the ranks of Efner's regiment were nearly broken by sickness and had it not been for the vigor of the men, the disease would have made a most lamentable havoc in their numbers. But few were killed, although they participated in several engagements.

When peace was proclaimed, quiet was restored and the people settled down to labor and enterprise, knowing that their strength made them invincible from any source their enemies might direct against them. Experience soon taught them of many defects, which their good, honest judgments led them to aright. The Constitution of the State made and adopted in 1777, proved to be defective, and on the 28th of August, 1821, the "Second Constitutional Convention" met in Albany and framed a new instrument, known as the "Second Constitution." Judge Olney Briggs of Esperance, Jacob Sutherland of Blenheim, and Asa Starkweather of Broome, were chosen by the people of the County as delegates. They were three men of marked abilities, as their debates before the convention show, and who performed their duties with honesty and faithfulness.

A free government, giving each an equal opportunity to aspire to prominent positions and allowing free thought and expression upon all subjects and occasions, naturally leads the ambition of many to mingle in the political arena, from which are brought official honors that are extremely tempting to the majority of the people. Contrary opinions are entertained by different individuals as to the manner certain results may be brought about. Each opinion becomes a "Platform" so called, with numerous advocates according to its practicability or the shrewdness and ingenuity of the leaders and thus forming "parties." While the American heart is upon the perpetuity of our political institutions, there are opposite ideas in regard to the means of so doing.

When the question of the disfranchisement of the Tory element which was so firmly and persistently advocated by George Clinton, who had safely engineered the province of New York through the Revolutionary struggle, became the leading topic in political circles and passed the Assembly in 1784, the people (or a majority of them) of Schoharie were Clinton's staunch adherents, and they in their excitement and hatred of the Tories, accused those who advocated their cause, of being such. Even Hamilton, whose magnanimity in Freedom's cause was inferior to none, had the epithet cast upon him beside others, whose course through the war condemned such charges. The disfranchisement act was repealed in 1787 through the indefatigable labors of Hamilton and Schuyler, and we believe after a more careful reflection upon the privileges our government intended to accord to her citizens, Clinton withdrew his objection to it.

But still, the people of Schoharie branded many of the advocates of franchise that had been unswerving patriots as Tories, and the odium is occasionally breathed afresh and kept in circulation, without the slightest degree of truth to substantiate it. Such is one of the evils our existing political periods fan into life to bring disgrace and defeat to political opponents, without weighing, by calm reflection, their untruthfulness, or considering the impractical theory the sentiment is likely to transmit to posterity, and in fostering a hatred that

is detrimental to our political happiness as a people.

Being supporters of Clinton when the County was formed, her people adhered to the party, and Schoharie became a Democratic * County giving only an occasional opposite majority in individual cases.

When Andrew Jackson stepped upon the political stage, and with his unflinching ambition caused the political firmament to rumble with his thunderings, Wm. C. Bouck and Colonel Wm. Dietz, were the leaders of the Democrats in the County. They were two men that possessed the unbounded confidence of the people, as in all positions in which they had been placed, (and they were many,) they proved themselves honest and true. Politics ran to fever heat during the years of the twenties and thirties in the County, and culminated in the election of Wm. C. Bouck, as Governor, in the fall of 1842. Two years before he was nominated against Wm. H. Seward, but was defeated. At the time of Bouck's election, there were three candidates in the field, Seward and Alvan Stewart, over whom was obtained a majority of 14,718. In justice to our only Gubernatorial official, and also to recall an article that created considerable political gossip and curiosity, we here insert the chief points of the Governor's first message, hoping it may be pleasing to his old friends and admirers, as well as exhibit the acme of progression that the "Empire State" had reached thirty-eight years ago:—

"To the Legislature of the State of New York:—

"FELLOW CITIZENS: The Constitution makes it the duty of the Governor to communicate by message to the legislature, at every session, the condition of the State, and recommend such matter as he shall judge expedient, and take care that the laws are faithfully executed.

"I have entered upon the discharge of the responsible duties of the Executive department of the government, with a proper regard, as I trust, for the important obligations imposed upon me.

"For the first time since the organization of

* After peace, in 1783, the political parties were Republicans and Federalists, later Democrats and Whigs; at present Democrats and Republicans—the Democrats of to-day being the Republicans of 1800.

the government, the chief magistrate has been selected from the agricultural portion of the community.

"Whatever distrust I may feel in taking upon myself an untried station of so much importance and difficulty, I repose with confidence on the guidance of the Almighty! on the co-operation of every department of the government, and on the indulgence of a generous people, who are always ready to overlook unintentional errors.

"To you as the immediate representatives of the people, belongs the duty of making ample provision to enforce a strict compliance with the constitution and laws; to simplify, expedite, and cheapen all the proceedings of the courts of law and equity; to place every department of the Government under a rigid accountability upon principles of economy; to see that the public faith is sacredly maintained, and the credit of the State kept unimpaired; to lessen as far as practicable the burdens of taxation in all its ramifications; to give the greatest possible efficiency to our system of internal improvements, having reference to principles of public utility, and a careful regard for the interest of every portion of the State; to facilitate the use of the roads and canals already constructed; to see that our penitentiary system answers the great ends of preventing crimes and punishing and reclaiming offenders, against the laws, upon principles of humanity; to see that all our charitable and benevolent institutions of a public character, are made to accomplish the object for which they were designed; to see that the banking institutions are placed upon a basis that will enable them with an honest administration of their affairs to command public confidence and subserve the legitimate objects of their creation; to give the utmost efficiency to the several departments of education; to protect and promote the interest of the agricultural, mechanical and laboring portion of the community; to restrain corporate bodies from all abuses of power; to take care of the public health, and to maintain the elective franchise in its purity.

• • • • •
"Were it not for the great excesses previous to 1837 when agriculture was neglected, when

extravagance and an inordinate desire for wealth prevailed, and the whole nation was deluded by a fictitious prosperity, the people would now be comparatively happy in the full enjoyment of ease and plenty.

"Although the country is in possession of an uncommon surplus of the products of labor, yet business is depressed and the people are embarrassed in all their monied transactions.

"This should doubtless be charged to the fact that fictitious prices and an inordinate desire for wealth have led to the contracting of debts which the products of the country at the present low prices do not furnish the means of paying.

"But I am confident that this state of things is gradually undergoing a salutary change. The people doubtless see the necessity of more economy in all their affairs and the evil consequences of a system of credit altogether too much extended, I am also confident that they will not again be so easily misled by the fallacy of artificial means to make them prosperous, and that they have become convinced that substantial wealth can only be derived from productive labor.

"There is no nation so highly favored as the people of the United States; and if they properly improve the advantages they possess, time will show that in point of greatness they are, as yet, in their infancy.

"There have been repeated instances in the history of the administration of the Federal government when powers of legislation have been assumed derogatory to State rights.

"While the States should yield a ready obedience to the rightful authority of the Federal government, they cannot be too watchful of their sovereignty, and no encroachment should be permitted to pass unnoticed.

"Within the last two years, there have, in my judgment, been several unwarrantable assumptions of power on the part of the Federal government. The right to collect money from the people in any form, for the purpose of distributing the same among the States, has not been delegated to the General Government.

"So long as the whole revenue of the United States is required for the purpose of carrying on the operations of the Government, it matters

not what particular monies are taken from the Treasury for the purpose of distribution.

"Whether it be the proceeds of the sale of the public lands, or the same amount of money collected from imports or by direct taxation, it is nothing less than collecting money from the people for the purpose of returning a portion of it to them in another form. And as it must come back diminished in amount by the expenses and losses incident to the collection and redistribution, the project is highly objectionable when viewed as a mere question of finance.

"But as an assumption of power which the States have not delegated to the General Government, it is of dangerous tendency, and like all other encroachments of power ought to be promptly met and firmly resisted.

"The Union can only be maintained and our free institutions transmitted unimpaired to posterity, by upholding the sovereignty of the States in all the Rights which they have not yielded to the Federal Government.

"Under a power to 'make or alter' regulations in relation to the times, places and manner of holding elections for representatives in Congress, the present Congress has passed a law which in effect requires the several states to legislate in a particular manner in relation to the choice of representatives.

"However unlimited may be the power of the National Legislature to 'alter' the existing regulations of the States, or to 'make' those which are entirely new, it is impossible upon any fair construction to maintain that the power to 'make or alter' includes the power to act upon the State Legislatures and compel them to make any particular law on the subject.

"As a question of mere expediency this question was not called for. No State has ever omitted to make the necessary regulations for the choice of representatives in Congress. But as an unauthorized exercise of power it was, like all other encroachments by the General Government highly dangerous to the stability of the Union.

* * * * *

"It cannot be denied that there has always been a class of men in the United States who have been disposed to give to the Government a strong tendency towards consolidation.

"While I would not impugn their motives, I cannot withhold the expression of my deliberate opinion that they labor under a great and dangerous error.

"Nothing can be gained to the Federal Government by exercising powers which have not been plainly delegated to it. On the contrary, I am firmly persuaded that nothing short of the complete sovereignty of the States in all matters where they have not clearly surrendered their rights to the General Government can give strength and stability to the Union and secure in perpetuity the blessings which we so richly enjoy, and as I love the Union, I would firmly resist every usurpation of power on the part of the National Government.

"While we are thus careful to watch and defend our own rights, we are bound honestly and faithfully to discharge our obligations to the General Government and to the several States with whom we are associated. By the compact under which the Union exists, the States have made themselves a name among the nations of the earth! they have reared a bulwark for the defense of free institutions and secured to the people advantages of the highest value, which could not have been maintained by separate, and perhaps rival States.

"As we cherish the Union, we ought carefully to abstain from all encroachments upon the legitimate powers of the Federal Government, and scrupulously fulfill our obligations to the other States. So long as we remain in and reap the advantages of the Union, we are bound by every consideration of honor and good faith to yield to others what we demand for ourselves, an honest fulfillment of the compact by which for many purposes we are made one people.

* * * * *

"I will not discuss the question of Slavery. The abstract right to hold any man in bondage is a question upon which, in this State, there is no diversity of opinion.

"We have happily relieved ourselves from the evil of Slavery. But we have no right to interfere with that institution as it exists in other States. We have virtually agreed that it shall not be done, and until we are prepared to break up the national compact, and take the

hazard of a civil war, our obligations to the other States should be faithfully discharged.

* * * * *

"A public debt is under all circumstances objectionable and should never be incurred except upon the most weighty considerations. And in every instance where a debt is authorized, adequate means and resources should be provided to pay the interest, and the power to liquidate the debt should be placed beyond the reach of contingency. As long as the rule is observed, the credit of the State will be preserved, and the public faith maintained. Expenditures for roads and canals should not be based on revenue to be derived from indiscriminate taxation. Such a system I regard as liable to very serious objections.

"Few if any public works can now be undertaken and constructed, that are not local in their advantages. A tax imposed directly upon the people for such an object, would operate unequally and be contrary to the genius of our government, which recognizes no such principle. In all our legislation we cannot too frequently recur to those first principles which lie at the foundation of our institutions, the adherence to which constitutes our surest hope for their stability. The State has constructed and put in operation about seven hundred miles of canal, and have in progress the enlargement of the Erie; the construction of the Black river and Genesee Valley canal; the improvement of the Oneida river, and has purchased the Oneida Lake canal.

"In addition to this, the State has loaned its credit to the following incorporated companies:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Delaware & Hudson Canal Co..... | \$ 800,000 |
| New York & Erie Railroad Co..... | 3,000,000 |
| Ithaca & Oswego Railroad Co. . . | 315,700 |
| Catskill & Canajoharie Railroad Co. | 200,000 |
| Auburn & Syracuse Railroad Co... | 200,000 |
| Auburn & Rochester Railroad Co... | 200,000 |
| Hudson & Berkshire Railroad Co... | 150,000 |
| Tonawanda Railroad Co..... | 100,000 |
| Long Island Railroad Co..... | 100,000 |
| Schenectady Railroad Co..... | 100,000 |
| Tioga Coal & Iron Mining and Manufacturing Co..... | 70,000 |
| Total..... | \$5,235,700 |

"The New York & Erie, the Ithaca & Oswego, and the Catskill & Canajoharie Railroad Companies have failed to pay the interest on their loans from the State, and the two latter roads have been sold at auction, and the sale of the former is postponed until the first Tuesday in May next.

"The New York & Erie Railroad Company has completed forty-five miles of its road from the Hudson river to Goshen in Orange county. Between this point and Binghamton there has comparatively but little work been done.

"From the latter place to Lake Erie, almost the entire line of the road is under contract, and it is understood that upon portions of it a large amount of labor has been expended.

* * * * *

"It is, I think, very much to be regretted that the company did not confine its expenditures to sections of the road and between points promising the largest accommodations by its use.

* * * * *

"It is hoped that the friends of this improvement will see in the exhibit of our financial condition, that there are no means that would justify new engagements on the part of the State.

"I recommend a further sale of this road and the enactment of a law yielding the prior lien of the State mortgage to such encumbrance as may hereafter be created by the company for the purpose of completing the roads or sections of it. The lien of the State mortgage should not be discharged until the Canal Board shall certify that the entire road, or such parts of it as may be designated in the act be completed. To enable the canal board to act understandingly, they should be authorized to appoint an agent at the expense of the company to examine the work as it progresses.

"The Catskill & Canajoharie Railroad Company have in operation twenty-six miles and a half of road. If about eleven miles were added to this distance, which it is estimated can be constructed for about the sum of \$110,000, the road would be extended to the Vly Summit, a few miles from the rich valley of the Schoharie creek. I cannot but hope that this entire road, from Catskill to Canajoharie, will eventually be completed.

"In granting acts of Incorporation for the construction of roads or other purposes, the Legislature should reserve such control over the operation of the company, as will ensure to the public the benefit proposed to be realized.

"The work under contract for the enlargement and improvement of the Erie canal, including that which has been completed as estimated at contract price amounts to

\$13,026,919.92

The work under contract for the construction of the Genesee Valley canal including that which has been completed as estimated at contract price is

4,223,305.68

Work completed and under contract etc., upon the Black

River canal amounts to

1,760,046.12

On Oneida River

70,122.56

"The policy of arresting large expenditures and providing for the prompt payment of the interest, and a gradual diminution of the State debt, has exerted a salutary influence in reviving our credit.

"On the first day of July last there were in this State 10,785 school districts; and the number of children taught the past year was 598,901. The number of volumes in the district libraries on the first of January, 1842, was 811,461, and at this time probably exceeds 1,000,000.

"The amount of disbursements for common schools during the last year is as follows:—

To teachers from the public money

\$588,466.54

To teachers from contributions

on rate bills

468,727.27

Payment for libraries

98,226.09

Total

\$1,155,419.90

"The subject of education in all its departments merits your most attentive consideration. It is in my opinion quite proper that in relation to a subject of so much importance, the Legislature should annually satisfy themselves that the common school and literature funds are safely invested, and rendered as productive as practicable.

"The embarrassed state of the treasury and the severity of the times, demand that every department of the public service should be placed on the most rigid principle of economy. No expenditure should now be incurred that is not called for by the public necessity and good economy in reference to existing engagements.

"Every species of labor is depressed, the prices of all the agricultural productions are uncommonly low, and the necessities of life cheap. Under such circumstances it is proper that there should be a corresponding reduction in the expenses of the Government. An effort should be made to encourage a return to the industrious and frugal habits of our forefathers. It would be quite appropriate that the Legislature should, by a prompt application to business, and a short session, set an example of public economy.

"There have been 1,417 convictions for criminal offences by the courts of record, since the first of January last, returned to the office of Secretary of State by the clerks of such courts; of which 544 were convictions for felonies, including five cases of murder, to-wit: two in New York, one in Niagara, one in Sullivan and one in Tompkins. It is estimated that if the number of convictions by courts of records, from which returns have not been received, are the same as last year, it would swell the aggregate to 1,585; of this number 602 were for felonies. The number of convictions by courts of Special Sessions is 2,278 which added to the number already stated will make 3,695, as the whole number of convictions returned to the Secretary's office. Our fellow citizens who are engaged in various mechanical pursuits, have on several occasions presented to the consideration of the Legislature, alleged grievances in consequence of State prison competition. The act of 1842 will, probably, in its operation, lessen to some extent, the cause of complaint. It is proper to encourage the industry and enterprise of the citizen mechanic, so as to direct the labor of convicts as not to come in competition with them. But humanity requires that these unfortunate beings should be engaged in some exercise conducive to health, and it is also essential that the labor should be rendered productive.

"The banking institutions should at all times be subject to the control of the Legislature, who cannot well be too watchful in checking their natural tendency to partiality and inflated issues. Every institution that diverts its means from the legitimate purposes of banking should be promptly deprived of its charter. Every institution that faithfully fulfills its duties to the public, should be sustained and protected.

* * * * *

"The repudiation of a public debt is a heresy that I trust is no where seriously entertained. I am confident that the people of every State in the Union would reject the idea of such dishonor and that they possess a partisan and public spirit that would induce them to submit to any burden rather than incur the approbation of such foul disgrace. * * * * *

"I indulge the cheerful hope that the time is not far distant when most if not all the States will find means to resuscitate their credit and finish their public works. The State of New York should cherish the hope that such expectations will be realized.

"Her natural position in reference to inland commerce, enables her to furnish the channels of communication for a trade that, in no very distant period of time, will be unsurpassed in magnitude.

* * * * *

"A concurrent resolution was adopted at the last session of the Legislature, requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to make use of their best efforts to procure the passage of a law refunding from the public Treasury the fine inflicted upon, and paid by General Jackson.

"Since that time the President of the United States has in a just and magnanimous spirit, commended the subject to the attention of Congress.

"Although the sentiment of the people of the State was expressed through your predecessors, yet it will be highly proper that it should again be heard through you, until mingling with the voices of the people of the whole Union, the National Legislature shall feel constrained to consummate this act of Justice.

WM. C. BOUCK."

Jan. 3d, 1843.

Great excitement prevailed during the two elections of 1840 and '42, and many humorous songs were composed and sung and many epithets cast upon each side. Those against Governor Bouck were the "Dutch Governor," "KROUT Eater," "Cabbage head," etc. A humorous article appeared in the *Albany Microscope*, a paper in the interest of the Whig party, called the Sour KROUT Message, which created no little merriment and was the best adapted to the occasion of any article that had appeared. We notice the author in Chapter XX, and will here insert a portion of his second effort, the first one being lost. It must be remembered that it is written in low Dutch brogue, and the English "e" whether long or short, should be pronounced as English "a."

"Alpany Chanuary du Second 18 tousant,
100, 4 & 44

"Veller Shitzens

De yahr has coom rount acain, and you haf meet in gounsel in dis capital of de lant of de coot olt Derrick Knickerbacker, for to settle de pisiness of de unifarce. Op dish auspicious oggasion I dake mit bleasure du jance for shpeak in your eairs mine gint wishes for your gesoudeit and your fokes, and to wish you all habby new years and blenty of oley cookies.

"I shall pye and pye shake hants mit you all ofera thousand ells of leverworcht, and a bot ash Kettle full of hot schnapps, py the site of zwei hay stags of pronn pretzels. We have vrighten all man kint into beace mit us, du zeason hasd pe very vruitful, die hucleperries hash brotuce by tousants, and die KROUT wash nefer more apuntant. Gommerce hash vlourish poundivally, maar it ish mit pidder crief dat I lament dat your honoraple poty tit not bass de dariff pill, vor de prodection of the many Dutche mens engaged in dee manufacture of worsht, roelstjes and Sour KROUT, ash I regommentet in mine lasht animal messitch op your honoraple poty lasht winder. Maar it ish no wonter, if, ash I have mine Sour KROUT messicht was only red in der frisd house. I regomment py a special choint gommittee be appointed py bote pranges of die shtate lechislature, to inguire into des tirdy pisness, mit bower to side bersons and bangers, ant teal out blixen to der gilty. Your axacutif pardly in hees lumpers waccon, ant

heas

pardly up his pedder half, du olt gray horse, has fisid mouch of der state der bast zeason, ant many goundies haf pe well recoort vor de timmygradic dicket

"I woot fudder regomment dat in orte to brefent anoder sech scrabe, dere pe none but Deutschen officers appint py der shtate brisons, ant none freed Deutschers electit brisoners, so dat dey can one anoder vershty when dey talks Deutsch, oder Yankee. Your axacutif has pecure for to mofe in dis madder, py abbingtine one vrint to an office of Sing Sing, wat put hees name on a ferry coot deutsch electioneering ledder a yahr ago lasht vall.

"We pe in beace mit all mangint. We receife bromishes of coot will and brotection vrom all de ground hets in de worlt. We haf hope of a nisit from fader Mattew and dat vine old chendleman der bope of Room.

"Veller shitzens, I vas elactit pegaus I vas ein Deutschman. Ise pe shtill ein Deutschman. Dish ish ein strong glaim of die tear peebls, Ein Deutscher moost, py coorse, make a coot cooferner.

"Maar ash dat, I wash elactet pegause I was auch ien varmer. An I pe shoost zo mooch ein varmer now ash I usht to was. I haf blow, und trag und sow, and mow choost so mooch since I haf pin coofener ash pefore, and choost so mooch winder ash zummer, (pedween you ant me ant die old woman on top of Shtate house,) Dish ish anoder shtrong glaim of dee beeples. Oh, dee beeples! dee tear beeples! der coot, wise and safferin beepies.

"More ash all dish, I was elactit pegause I tit nefer shtal any of der beebles' money.* It ish drue, die sазzy wicks tid tenie all dis. Maar, we zoon vount out a way to zilence de minority, dey goud nelting brofe, ant any mon ish always innozend dill broof Gildy. I pe so clat tat I pe noch innozend, vor I dere py shtant a nople

* The author says, "This claim was never seriously disputed. It was only a decided claim for a negative virtue. And it is no insignificant commentary on the subsequent progress of political morality, to ask which of the actors on the public stage since, can claim as much? Let the authentic history of the past few years answer the question. It is but too often true, that the *outs* are impatiently laboring to *oust* the *ins*, that they may retrench and reform after the pattern of Rehoboam. See II Chron. x, 10."

jance for a re-election ter next vall. Dish glaim pe choost so coot est efer, and of dis crount any one of you dat out lifs me and mine poys, gans run for cofernor, if he nefer shtole any of der beeples money.

"I haf long aco, mein Schoharie vrients, bromish dat iv elactet, I would to sometings vor die rail roat, so vor at leasht as de Vly Zummit, ant py way of vulvilling dat bromish, I would here zay dat next to vurnishing blendy of offishes vor mein vamily, nothing lie so near mein pelly to, ash der Vly Zummit."

Amid the political excitement of 1840 to 1845, the sheriff of the County was frequently resisted in collecting executions that were obtained by due process of law, for rents upon lands owned in the southern part of the County by the Livingstons.

Large tracts were owned by those heirs, which were divided into small farms and leased for a stated term of years or an uncertain period, during the life of one or more of the family of the lessee at a yearly rental. Those yearly rentals the tenants refused to pay for their supposed illegality, and wherever leased land existed, more particularly in Greene and Delaware counties, a resistance was made to the officials in their attempts to collect, and every neighborhood was thrown into the greatest excitement over the prospect of an anti-rent war.

Greene, Delaware, Rensselaer, Albany, Montgomery and Schoharie counties were the seats of expected hostilities, but such extremes were not resorted to, only in Delaware, Albany and Schoharie. Osmer N. Steele, a deputy sheriff of Delaware, while acting in his official capacity, was killed, and the brightest prospects of bloodshed existed in Schoharie. John S. Brown was sheriff, and being so stubbornly resisted in the enforcement of the law and duty; threatened with death, tar and feathers, and every conceivable and inconceivable torture, he called upon the State for arms and ammunition and enlisted one hundred men to enforce order and obedience to law. The force was raised in the month of March, 1845, and was marched through Middleburgh, Fulton, Blenheim and

Broome to Gilboa, making, no doubt, the very hills tremble by their martial tread, and the Anti's quail before the glittering bayonets. Judgments in the hands of the sheriff were collected, and peace began to loom up over the ragged precipice of despair, while the tax-payers' grumbling disturbed the political waters and threatened to upset the seemingly safe causes in which many were sailing up the stream of distinction and healthy emoluments. While the force lay at Gilboa with "victory" depicted upon each countenance, the sheriff and his deputy, Tobias Bouck, started from Schoharie to join them. While stopping at "Fink's Tavern" in North Blenheim, they were surprised to find themselves surrounded by nearly three hundred anti-renters, many of them in full costumes of Indian warriors, and one of modern experience may imagine army contractors, sutlers and carpet-baggers. The belligerents were armed, and like Knickerbocker's company of Dutch, were "brimful of wrath and cabbage." An escape was impossible, and after much parleying and threatening the officials were taken to "Baldwin Heights" for the purpose of being presented with a respectable coat of tar and feathers.

The fact of their capturing the officials spread throughout the neighborhood, and a few living at some distance mounted horses and hastened to witness the "presentation." There was a heavy crust upon the snow, and as the horses made considerable noise, especially in galloping over a bridge not far distant, the Anti's not being able to discern the cause of it by "ocular demonstration," listened to the whisperings of cautious imagination and fled precipitately, with the belief that the sheriff's posse of one hundred men was upon their heels.

Brown and Bouck stood "alone in their glory," "sole monarchs of all they surveyed," without receiving the belligerents' testimonials of their contempt. Soon the dark clouds of war passed away, quiet was restored and the posse disbanded, with the happy thought "nobody hurt."

Over three thousand dollars were expended to collect in the neighborhood of three hundred. Brown was censured by many, for taking the steps he did but he was an official, and was resisted in the execution of his duties. If force is used

to resist, force must be used to obey. The law must be obeyed regardless of the expenditure to enforce it; that should be secondary if considered at all. It was believed by those who were acquainted with the state of affairs at that time, that if the sheriff had not taken the steps he did in the beginning of the troubles, the affair would have proved serious. Those that were implicated in the matter, now living, look back upon the "Anti-Rent war" with a smile, as upon amusing incidents of younger days, with "malice towards none" as true patriots *will* do after an exciting campaign.

During the political and rental excitements that agitated the people, which we have noticed, progressive minds were active in bringing the County up to the height of improvements that characterized a few of the adjoining counties. The Catskill & Canajoharie Railroad Company was chartered on the 19th of April, 1830, the capital stock was subscribed, and the road, as will be seen by Governor Bouck's message, built within a few miles of the Schoharie creek. The business men of Albany city saw the project would be detrimental to their interest, purchased the stock and let the enterprise fail.

Another railroad was contemplated, and an act passed on the 9th of May, 1836, to incorporate the same as the Unadilla & Schoharie Railroad Company. The road was to be constructed from a "point in the county of Otsego, near the mouth of the Unadilla river, and thence extending up the valleys of the Susquehanna river and the Schenectady creek and down the Cobleskill valley to a point near the Schoharie creek, with leave also to extend the said railroad from the southern termination above mentioned to the New York & Erie Railroad." John P. Bellinger, Isaac Hayes, Thaddeus R. Austin, Wm. Angle, Peter Collier, Jesse Rose, Schuyler Crippen, Arvine Clark and Peter W. Snyder were commissioned to "open books to receive subscriptions to the capital stock."

The project was abandoned and the parties that were interested living in the County became attached to the Catskill road, and bent their energies to a speedy completion of it. An act also was passed on the 25th of April, 1832, to incorporate the Schoharie & Otsego Rail-

road Company. Peter Collier, Eliakim R. Ford, Jesse Rose, Leonard Caryl, Thomas B. Van Alstyne, John Westover, Peter W. Snyder, Abraham L. Lawyer, Peter Shafer, Jr., and Philip Mann, were the "body corporate and politic." The capital stock was \$300,000, divided into shares of \$50 each. The subscription committee were Eben E. Morehouse, Peter Collier, Jared Goodyear, Jr., Harvey W. Babcock, Schuyler Crippen, Jesse Rose, Thomas Lawyer, John P. Bellingier, Henry Hamilton, Wm. Mann and Freeman Stanton. This enterprise also was dropped.

Sharon made several attempts to connect the Spa with the New York Central Railroad but all proved failures. The first was in 1838 when the Canajoharie & Catskill R. R. was being built. An act was passed by the Legislature on the 18th of April of that year "To provide for the construction of the Sharon & Root Railroad."

It was to connect with the Catskill Road at some point in the town of Root, Montgomery county. The capital stock was fifty thousand dollars with the privilege of increasing the same to a sum not to exceed seventy thousand, which should be divided into shares of fifty dollars each. John Hyney, John Beakly, Adam Empie, George F. Fox, Aaron Malick, John Crounse, Jun., A. Smith Knight and Joseph H. Ramsey were the subscription committee.

The next object that absorbed the public mind throughout the County, as in other sections of the State, was the building of plank roads. It was not supposed possible to connect Schoharie with the outside world by "iron ties" after so many efforts had proved failures, and the next best improvement was plank roads, in which large amounts of hard earned dollars were invested, to be trampled upon and splintered up without returning very flattering dividends.

One was built from Middleburgh, through Schoharie and Gallupville, to intersect the Western Turnpike nine miles from Albany, and one also from Schoharie to Richmondville, through Mineral Springs and Warnerville, also from Richmondville to Summit and Charlotteville. The road leading from Central Bridge to Schoharie was planked to intersect the Albany road at Fox's Creek. These roads were of the

best when newly laid, but upon becoming worn were rough and uneven, making it wearisome for teams.

Not being very durable, replacing the plank and other natural expenditures made a continual expense, which the low tolls were insufficient to meet and which caused their abandonment in a few years. Covering the worn planks with pounded stone and gravel made excellent roads until the frost raised the planks to the surface, but the expense of keeping them in order satisfied capitalists of their inability to obtain paying dividends.

About the same time (1850 and after) that plank roads excited capitalists, another financial enterprise loomed up, in which many engaged to the detriment of their monetary prosperity, and which we can only style as the Seminary Mania.

The first was built at Charlotteville, costing about thirty thousand dollars. By careful financing on imaginary results the enterprise figured a large dividend, which was so exorbitant that the envy of capitalists was excited and other institutions of the kind were organized at different places with increased facilities and expense. The citizens of the pleasant Cobleskill valley formed a stock company and built the *Richmondville Collegiate Seminary* in the summer of 1852, at an expense of thirty-two thousand dollars, having accommodations for three hundred pupils. The school opened with very flattering success, which was keenly watched by the ambition of people of other sections, and before its existence proved either a success or failure, a company consisting principally of farmers, organized and built the *Carlisle Seminary* at Carlisle village. The fall of 1853 found the building, at a cost of thirty-three thousand dollars, ready to accommodate three hundred scholars.

Scarcely was the school commenced before the deluded farmers of Warnerville were attacked with the mania to such an extent that twenty-five thousand of their hard earned dollars were exhausted in a similar structure called the *Warnerville Collegiate Institute*. It is the only building left standing and has been unoccupied for many years. Incendiary fires and the impracticable method adopted in their management

made serious failures, as they proved ruinous to those of moderate means, who were induced to invest, and many happy homes were sacrificed by the losses which were incurred. These schools were for the education of both male and female, with all the necessary conveniences for boarding within the buildings, together with the teachers and required help. They gave a thorough course in all branches.

The rates of tuition were low, also board, which made it an object for those seeking an education, with limited means. Good board, including furnished rooms, washing and ironing, three meals each day, with all the privileges accorded to a member of a well regulated family, were obtained for the low price of three dollars per week, which any one of practical observance will plainly see, was far less than could be afforded.

For several years an idea was entertained by enterprising business men of Albany City, Cobleskill, Schenectady and Susquehanna valleys, of building a railroad to connect the Hudson at Albany, with the Erie road at Binghamton, but did not receive any direct action until the year 1854. A company was formed, and Civil Engineer Chas. W. Wentz was employed to survey the route, which was found practicable, and renewed efforts were made by issuing stock certificates and obtaining the right of way along the line, besides inviting towns through which it passed, to issue bonds to aid in its construction. Passing through the County from east to west, and opening a rapid transit to the best markets in the world, to those who were from thirty to sixty miles distant, the people took a lively interest in the enterprise, regardless of their losses in former projects. Joseph H. Ramsey, of Lawyersville, turned his energies in behalf of the road, and was sent to the Assembly in the year 1855, for the purpose of advocating "State aid."

In all of the improvements made in other sections of the State, in which State aid was granted, Schoharie County had borne her share of the burden of taxation, and had not received any aid for herself, and had been but little, if any, benefitted by such projects. In fact, nearly the whole territory through which the road passed, had been exempt from receiving any assistance in internal improvements.

Mr. Ramsey was sent to the Senate the two following years, but was unsuccessful.

A bill was passed in 1858, giving aid to the road, in the sum of one million dollars, after the road was completed to Schoharie creek. Edwin D. Morgan was then governor, and upon some technicality he withheld his signature. Again, the bill obtained by Mr. Ramsey, in the Senate, of 1860, was placed before that official after his second election, but it received his second veto. The year 1862 placed Horatio Seymour in the Gubernatorial chair, and found Mr. Ramsey in the Senate, and Wm. C. Lamont in the Assembly. Strenuous efforts were made by those gentlemen for the passage of the third bill. It began to roll through, breaking down every barrier, and at last culminated in its passage and received the signature of the governor. Renewed efforts were made in the building of the road and in the year 1863 it was completed to the Schoharie creek, and in 1865, the cars passed through the County. On the 24th of February, 1870, the road was leased for the term of ninety-nine years, to the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. Like all other successful enterprises, this one gave birth and vigor to others.

The Schoharie Valley Railroad was built in 1867, at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars, to connect with the Susquehanna, east of Central Bridge station. Middleburgh also, desiring to be connected with the rest of the world by "iron ties," built a road from the ancient "dorp," to intersect the Schoharie Valley Road, at the village of Schoharie, in the year 1868, at a cost of one hundred and five thousand dollars. The two roads make a continuous line of 10.13 miles and are managed by two separate boards of directors. [See Schoharie and Middleburgh.]

For years the business portion of Cherry Valley, and especially Sharon Spa, felt the need of a railroad, as they were respectively twelve and ten miles from the New York Central. Sharon, being a summer resort, was forced to struggle against other watering places, under the disadvantage of being distant from public thoroughfares, since the greatest number resort to such places for pleasure instead of the effects of the medicinal properties found in the water.

When the Susquehanna road was completed a project was started to connect the two places with it at Cobleskill. Mr. Bates, of Cherry Valley, was at the head of the enterprise and induced the towns along the line to issue bonds for its construction. The road was opened on the 16th of June, 1870, at a total cost of six hundred thousand dollars, being 20.91 miles in length. The "Delaware & Hudson Canal Company," in the year 1871, leased the Susquehanna road and this branch for the term of ninety-nine years.

The transaction was a wise one, as the lessor company is a heavy coal mining association, possessing inexhaustible mines and will make these roads the arteries through which their products will flow with a certainty for the term of their lease, at least.

Upon the building of the railroad through Cobleskill another enterprise received its birth, at Howe's Cave, which each returning season proves to be of more marked proportions. The road runs nearly one hundred feet from the bed of the creek at this point, upon the side of the lime rock hill, in which Nature has placed treasures which the genius of man requires to aid in the construction of his enterprises, as well as to instruct that ambitious spirit of the wisdom and power of the divine Godhead. From the surface of this hill is obtained limestone which produces lime of a superior quality, to the depth of forty feet, beneath which lies a strata of cement to the depth of ten feet, which proves equal to any, as is testified by railroad, canal and public building officials. The cement strata lies upon a limestone of a harder formation which is used for building and is capable of receiving a very fine polish equal to any black marble. The "marble" stratum is about twenty feet in thickness and is underlaid by one of gypsum to the depth of ten feet. The whole lies upon a very hard blue limestone similar to the stratum between the cement and gypsum. Two companies were formed upon the completion of the railroad at this place for the purpose of manufacturing lime, cement and plaster, which are now in progress, and considering the dullness of the times for the last few years, have increased their facilities and business beyond expectations.

Howe's Cave Association is a stock company, and under the management of the treasurer Joseph H. Ramsey. During the stagnant business year of 1878 the sales of cement were over 13,000 barrels, and that of lime 19,000 bushels, besides a large quantity of plaster, building, rough and dressed stone, the amount of which we are unable to give. This company has one draw kiln for lime, and three pits for the burning of cement, with a mill, driven by steam for the grinding of the same.

Another firm company, of which Hon. John Westover, of Richmondville, is president, under the name of *Howe's Cave Lime & Cement Co.*, with a capital of \$100,000, possesses nearly the same facilities for the production of stone products. The business of the company is conducted by Eli Rose, its treasurer, and the sales for the same year (1878) were 10,000 barrels of cement, 20,000 bushels of prime lime and several thousand of a second class article, beside a large quantity of rough and dressed stone. It is a few feet above the cement stratum, in that of the lime rock proper, that the world-famed Howe's Cave is found, of which particular mention is made in Chapter X of this work.

The quarries of the County are the finest of the State for building purposes, monuments, bases, curbs and every other purpose for which solid and easily wrought stone is used.

A gray sandstone is found near Warnerville, that bids fair to be of great value in the building of monuments and fronting residences, owing to its beauty of color and solidity. The stone works of Middleburgh are producing superior flagging, which is being shipped to all parts of the country. It is a fact that the quarries of the County are inexhaustible, and in them lies untold wealth, waiting for the strong arm of capital and labor to develop them.

Throughout the lime rock sections mineral springs issue from the fissures of the rock, which are justly celebrated for their curative properties in rheumatic and cutaneous diseases, of which *Sharon Springs* is the chief, and where many thousand resort for relief and pleasure. A sulphur spring issues from a rocky bank, of such strength as to impregnate the atmosphere at some distance with sulphuretted hydrogen and

incrustate the bed of the brook in which it flows. A short distance from the sulphur is the *attractive* water, and called the Magnesia Spring as it contains a greater amount of magnesium and lime and but little sulphur, which makes it more palatable than the former. The analysis of this water may be found in the chapter on Sharon, together with a history of the village. A chalybeate vein appears a short distance above but during dry seasons it fails to perform its office to supply, and but little dependence can be placed upon it.

Nearly five miles east of Sharon, at Moak's Hollow, other sulphurous waters flow from the side of a hill, which many, that have experience in their effects, think excels Sharon, but which are little known, as efforts have never been taken to bring them to the notice of the public.

Upon the south side of the Cobleskill creek at a small hamlet known for many years as France's Corners and Cobleskill Centre, a sulphurous spring rises from the rocks that is nearly of the composition of the Moak's Hollow spring. Efforts were made from time to time to bring the attention of the public to their curative properties, but were met with but little encouragement. Several other mineral springs, chiefly sulphur, appear in different sections of the County, of less virtue, to which it is unnecessary to refer.

A few mild salt springs also appear, from which the Indians of long ago and the early settlers manufactured salt, and around which many relics of their day and use have been found. The early settlers, especially the late Judge Brown, were induced to think that coal abounded in many of the hills from the fact that a substance resembling anthracite was frequently found near their base. Not being instructed in the geological formation of the earth, they believed that at a considerable depth it would be found inferior to none and in great abundance, and a spasmodic coal fever would occasionally attack some strong believers and lead them to expend a few dollars in opening the treasure boxes.

While industry has wrought a great change in the surface of Schoharie and swelled the volume of production, the people have not been unmindful of the importance of educational in-

terests. As each neighborhood was settled, schools were established, and as each generation "returneth," a more advanced improvement has been noticed in the interest taken by the construction of school buildings and their apparatus, course of studies and required ability of teachers. In the annual report of John H. Salsbury, County Superintendent of Common Schools, made on the first of January, 1845, he says:—

"The number of teachers licensed by me during the past year is twenty-four, ten of whom received special certificates for one year."

There are at present two hundred and sixteen school districts, employing three hundred and ninety-two teachers. The average expense for all school purposes for the last three years was nearly sixty-four thousand dollars. Several of the village districts have adopted the academic system, employing a corps of teachers, and possess all the facilities for giving the student a thorough course of instruction. The County is divided into two districts, over each of which is elected a school commissioner, that unite annually and hold a convention of teachers, under the name of "County Institute," for the purpose of the examination of teachers, introduction of systems of instruction, and a general conference of teachers to awaken a livelier interest in the cause. Formerly each town elected a Superintendent of Schools, who granted licenses, visited the schools and made a report to the Secretary of State through the county clerk, but the system not being considered thorough, a law was passed, April 17, 1843, for the appointment by the Boards of Supervisors of County Superintendents. For unknown reasons the office was abolished in 1847, and town superintendents were again elected to the year 1856, when a law was passed creating the present office of Commissioner. Under the administration of superintendents a County Teachers' Association was formed and held annual meetings. Among the members were the veterans ——— Jenkins, John C. Selleck, A. Smith Knight, D. Clinton Dow, David H. Morris, Bartholomew Becker, ——— Spenser, Ezra Smith, John H. Salsbury, S. Ann Guffin, Walter Cross and William Snyder.

Hand in hand with education has been the march of religion. The first church in the County was organized in, or a short time previous to 1728, and at the commencement of the Revolution but four buildings had been erected for divine worship. There are at present seventy-five organizations with an equal number of churches, a general history of which may be found in the towns' history to which they belong. The Methodist persuasion predominates in numbers, they being thirty-one; of the Lutheran there are fourteen; of the Reformed thirteen; of the Baptist nine; and the remainder are Presbyterian, Christian, Episcopal, Roman Catholic and Universalist. Many of the churches are expensive structures and costly furnished, but in general, they are plainly but substantially built at an average cost of thirty-five hundred dollars. Nearly all the organizations sustain Sabbath schools and a Bible class, and furnish service in school-houses distant from churches.

The temperance question has engaged the attention of the people for many years and created a distinctive change in the customs and habits of the people, in influencing the mass to refrain from using intoxicating liquors, to which they became habitually accustomed in the early part of the century. While several convulsive excitements were experienced in behalf of the cause in previous years, the first effective stroke in the County was made in the year 1844 by the societies organized under the name of "Washingtonians." Various other organizations have done much in suppressing the evil, under different names and plans of influence from time to time, and have done well in their efforts.

The chief orders of the present time are "Murphyites," "Good Templars," "Juvenile Templars," and "Band of Hope," a notice of which may be found in the chapters upon each town in which the organizations exist.

The County Sabbath School Society was formed in 1854 by Albert Brown of Schoharie, who was appointed the first secretary by the State Sabbath School Association, to organize branch societies. It was upon the wane at one time, but again revived and holds yearly conventions in different parts of the County, for

the purpose of discussing and adopting uniform methods for the best interest of the cause.

To awaken a livelier interest, town organizations have been effected as branches, which prove successful in bringing the whole work down to a business system.

Long years ago the veteran "servants of the Master" of this County and Delaware called a convention in the Schoharie court house for the purpose of organizing a Bible Society. They met on the 7th of September, 1813, and formed the Schoharie and Delaware Bible Society which in truth preceded the American Bible Society. From a historical discourse delivered before the Society at its Semi-Centennial meeting in the Lutheran church, of Schoharie, on the 6th of October, 1863, by the Rev. George A. Lintner, D. D., President of the Society, we extract:—

"Rev. Dr. Augustus Wackenhagen, who was then Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran church of Schoharie presided at the convention and was chosen first President of the Society.

"Dr. Wackenhagen was succeeded by the Rev. Henry Moeller, of Sharon, in 1814. On the 31st of January, 1816, the connection between the counties of Schoharie and Delaware, in this society was dissolved, and to awaken a livelier interest in the cause and render their labors more efficient, each county formed a separate association. This society then assumed the title of The Schoharie County Bible Society, and soon after became an auxiliary to the American Bible Society, which was formed in the same year.

"Rev. John Molther, who had succeeded Dr. Wackenhagen in the pastoral charge of the Lutheran church at Schoharie, was chosen President of the Society in 1817. In 1818, Jacob Gebhard was elected by the society to fill the office of president, the duties of which he discharged for two years with his characteristic zeal and fidelity to every trust that was committed to his hands. In 1822, Henry Becker became president, who performed the duties of the office in the true spirit of the Gospel, with which he was thoroughly imbued. The next president was Rev. John F. Schermerhorn, who was the pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church of Middleburgh. He preached his first sermon

before the society, which was printed and circulated as an appeal from the society to the friends of the Bible, for their support and co-operation in the new enterprise in which they had engaged.

"In 1828 the Rev. Mr. Salsbury was succeeded by the present incumbent, Dr. Lintner, who was elected in 1835, which office he has now held for twenty-eight years, during which time he has had frequent occasions to feel thankful for the satisfaction and pleasure he has derived from his official intercourse with the officers and members of the society who have labored with him in the cause."

Dr. Lintner's "satisfaction and pleasure" was longer extended, as he held the position until his death, which occurred December 22, 1871, giving to him the long term of thirty-six years as President of the society. Since the death of Dr. Lintner, with the exception of a short term, Peter S. Danforth, son-in-law of Dr. Lintner, has filled the position.

We are indebted to author Simms for information in regard to one of the first Masonic lodges in the County. Captain Thomas Machin settled about the year 1797, in the present town of Charleston, near the county line, and being a Mason, was appointed Master to install officers of a lodge at Schoharie, called *Ames Mark Lodge*. Silas Grey was appointed S. W., and Johannes Dietz, J. W., of the same. We have no further information in regard to it, but find in the Masonic Registry, of 1805, mention of two lodges, which we will here notice:—

The Schoharie Union Lodge, at Schoharie, had a membership of eighty-five; and the officers were Ralph R. Phelps, M.; Storm A. Becker, S. W.; David Swart, J. W.; Peter Vroman, Jr., Tr.; Richard Fishback, Sec.; Wm. Estelstine, S. D.; Nicholas Delavergne, J. D.; Isaac Simmonds and Lawrence Chambers, Stewards; Joseph Efnor, Tiler. The date of this organization is not given.

Sharon Felicity Lodge numbered thirty-five members, and the officers were: Dr. Zenas Pinneo, M.; Enock Kelsey, S. W.; Joseph Alexander, J. W.; John Beakley, Tr.; Reubin Parkinson, Sec.; Joel Rodgers, S. D.; David Cowden, J. D.; John Johnson, Jr., and Peter Ripson, Tiler.

A lodge was formed at Middleburgh village, about the years 1825 or '30, but we cannot give any facts relating to the order, excepting the anti-masonic excitements of the thirties, causing its abandonment. There are six organizations of the ancient order, in the County, a notice of which may be found in following chapters of this work.

By an Act of Legislature passed April 12, 1860, Chas. Goodyear, John G. Gebhard, Jr., Jacob Vroman, Peter S. Swart, Jonas Kilmer, Hobart Krum, David Dietz, Eli P. Garder, Wm. H. Davis, William Winter, Tobias Bouck, Treat Durand, and Augustus B. F. Pond, of the town of Schoharie; Lyman Sanford and George Manning, of Middleburgh; Charles Courter, and Marcus Borst, of Cobleskill; Joseph I. Brown, and Chas. G. Kenyon, of Carlisle; Asahel Billings, and Mark W. Stevens, of Esperance, and Weidman Dominick, Austin Becker and Ira Zeh, of Wright, were constituted a body corporate by the name of the *Schoharie Valley Stock Growers' Association*.

The society leased fifteen acres at Schoharie village, for exhibition grounds, erected substantial buildings, and graded a one-half mile track for the exhibition of speed. At the present time the association owns the grounds, being in debt but one thousand dollars.

Premiums upon farm products and stock are given yearly, ranging from twelve to fifteen hundred dollars.

The officers of 1881 were:—

Trustees—Walter Ferris, Robert N. Stafford, Marshall N. DeNoyelles, Darius B. Scott, Thomas B. Borst, Isaac C. VanTuyl, Hiram Schoolcraft, F. Wood, Wm. B. Murphy, Z. J. Brown, Schoharie; Wm. H. Mitchell, G. L. Haines, Wm. H. Freemyer, Fulton; Nathaniel Manning, David Zeh, Middleburgh; A. B. Larkin, Richmondville; W. Dominick, Gallupville; Jacob Angle, Cobleskill.

President—Nath. Manning.

1st Vice-President—Jacob Angle.

2d Vice-President—Z. J. Brown.

3d Vice-President—I. C. VanTuyl.

Treasurer—M. N. DeNoyelles.

Secretary—Robert N. Stafford.

Executive Committee—Walter Ferris, D. B. Scott, I. C. VanTuyl.

Finance Committee—Hiram Schoolcraft, Z. J. Brown, Weidman Dominick.

Cobleskill Agricultural Society was organized in the spring of 1876. The yearly premiums range from \$1,000 to \$1,200, and the exhibitions have been well attended, chiefly by the inhabitants of Carlisle, Sharon, Seward, Richmondville, Summit, Fulton and Cobleskill. The first officers were W. C. Lamont, President, George Bellinger, Secretary, and Morris Cohn, Treasurer. Unparalleled exertions are being made for the fifth annual exhibition under the management of the following energetic officers:

President—Hon. W. C. Lamont.

Vice Presidents—Stanton P. Osterhout, P. A. Angle, W. L. Hawes, Theodore Owen, W. S. Clark, Isaac Hawes, Minard Proper, Abram Osterhout, John Patrie, W. W. Proper, Peter Conro, Ralph Hyde, Abram Freeman, R. Sheldmandine, Hiram Schoolcraft, Frank Wood, D. S. Mann, J. A. Warner, Wellington Shafer, Philip Zeh, Dr. Leonard, Orlando Mace, Orson Spickerman, H. F. Hannay, George Shaler, John Snyder, Geo. VanDyck, Douglas Thorpe.

Treasurer—Martin D. Borst.

Secretary—George W. Bellinger.

General Superintendent—William H. McIntosh.

Dep't Superintendents—Horse Dep't—Marcus Angle, Thompson Perrine; Cattle, Sheep and Swine Dep't—Jared VanWaganen, D. H. Osterhout, Madison L. Shafer; Fruit and Vegetable Dep't—H. VanDreaser, Daniel Malick; Farm Implement Dep't—David Lawyer, P. P. Karker; Poultry Dep't—Peter E. Borst; Ladies' Dep't—J. Henry Hoffman.

Directors—Marcus Angle, Thompson Perrine, S. D. Karker, Peter Tingle, John O. Ried, G. W. Dana, Clinton Nethaway, David Lawyer, Wm. Farquher, J. J. Dickinson.

The First Annual Exhibition of the *Schoharie County Poultry and Pet Stock Association* was held at Cobleskill village in February from the 1st to the 4th, 1881. The enterprise proved a success and renewed efforts are to be made for its future prosperity, and certainty of its existence. The following are the officers:—

President—C. L. Griggs, Cobleskill, N. Y.

Vice Presidents—George Boughton, Hynds-ville; Seneca Sands, Central Bridge; W. L.

Morrison, Schoharie; Geo. Boorn, Jefferson; Hubbard Ellis, Livingstonville; Perry E. McMaster, Sloansville; H. W. Champlain, North Blenheim.

Secretary—D. A. Hitchman, Schoharie, N. Y.

Treasurer—L. T. Fox, Cobleskill, N. Y.

Executive Committee—Rev. J. G. Gooding, Schoharie; James Gale, Barnerville; A. H. Sexton, Hynds-ville; C. S. Swart, Howe's Cave; P. E. Borst, Cobleskill.

General Superintendent—Peter E. Borst, Cobleskill, N. Y.

Assistant Superintendent—Charles Limmer, Cobleskill, N. Y.

Judge—I. K. Felch, Natick, Mass.

In the beginning of the present century a medical society was formed, but at what date is not definitely known, but supposed to have been in 1808. For some reason the order was abandoned for a while. Not having any records of the same, we are unable to give a correct list of its members. There were but few regular professionals in the County, and they had a hard service to perform, and but small pay. The chief physicians were, Jesse Shepherd, and — Gannon, of Cobleskill; Zenas Pinneo, of Sharon; his student George Fox, followed in 1821, and J. B. Roscoe, of Carlisle; Prentiss Leonard, of Esperance; Origin Brigham, Cornelius VanDyck, Jas. VanGaasbeck, of Middleburgh; P. S. Swart, of Schoharie; Dr. Shepherd was a delegate to the State Association in 1809 and '10. The organizations now in order are composed of those adhering to the allopathic and eclectic schools, and the following are the officers and members of the former which was reorganized in 1857 under the following officers, S. B. Wells, President; P. S. Swart, Vice-President; C. C. VanDyck, Secretary; John Pinder, Treasurer; P. S. Swart, Volney Danforth, Isaac Flint, Philip Werner, — Ruland, Censors.

The annual meeting is held on the first Tuesday in June, and the semi-annual, the second Tuesday in October.

The officers of 1880 and '81 were

✓ David Norwood, President.

E. O. Bruce, Vice-President.

H. F. Kingsley, Secretary.

David Frasier, Treasurer.

The members are :—

Beard E. P., Summit.
 Brown J. R., Seward.
 Bruce E. O., Hyndsville.
 Burnett C. S., Blenheim.
 Cross Lemuel, Cobleskill.
 Dickerson C., Seward.
 Dockstader J. A., Sharon Spa.
 Frasier D., Cobleskill.
 Frasier C. K., Cobleskill.
 Green J., Sharon Spa.
 Havens C. H., Summit.
 Hotaling John, Gallupville.
 Jackson Geo., Huntersland.
 Kingsley H. F., Schoharie.
 Lawyer Ezra, Cobleskill.
 Lawyer Jas., Middleburgh.
 Layman W. S., Schoharie.
 Leonard D. M., Broome Centre.
 Lowell J. S., Argusville.
 Marsh Edward, Sloansville.
 McCulloch Charles, Central Bridge.
 Norwood D., Esperance.
 Roscoe R. J., Carlisle.
 Terwilliger R. W., Carlisle.
 Scott I. S., Grosvenor's Corners.
 Spurbeck H., Charlotteville.
 VanAlstine S. M., Richmondville.
 Wells Henry D., Middleburgh.

The Eclectic School of Physicians, organized by Senatorial districts, making a larger organization than if divided by counties. This fraternity numbers fifty-one members in this the twenty-third district of which fifteen are residents of this County. The society meets annually on the 2d Wednesday and Thursday of June, at such places as the adjourning meeting designates. The County members are as follows :—

Allen P. A., Lawyersville.
 Chase Jared, Warnerville.
 Snyder J. D., Sharon Spa.
 VanValkenburgh Jacob, Sharon Hill.
 Myres Henry A., Seward.
 Ackley John S., West Fulton.
 Beard Frank P., Summit.
 Chapman P. L., Richmondville.
 Nellis J., Schoharie.
 Kilmer Thomas K., Schoharie.
 Rossman John, Middleburgh.
 Hubbell R., Jefferson, President.

Benson J. H., South Valley, Vice-President.
 Best C. S., Middleburgh, Secretary.
 Chase Jared, Treasurer.

Physicians.—The following is a complete list of all the physicians and surgeons in the County of Schoharie who have registered to October 13, 1880, and contains the name of the physician and surgeon, his postoffice address, his authority, whether by diploma or license, the date of the same, and the name of the medical college or medical society by whom it was granted or given, as required by an act of the Legislature of the State of New York, (Chapter 513, Laws 1880,) entitled "An Act to regulate the Licensing of Physicians and Surgeons," passed May 29, 1880 :—

H. F. Kingsley, Schoharie C. H., N. Y.; diploma; February 17, 1874; University City of New York, N. Y.

Christopher S. Best, Jr., Middleburgh, N. Y.; diploma; February 6, 1876, (college not given.)

Edward Marsh, Sloansville, N. Y.; diploma; October 1, 1874; Bellevue Hospital Medical College, N. Y.

Isaac J. Scott, Grovenor's Corners, N. Y.; diploma; November 27, 1848; Castleton Medical College, Vt.

Jacob VanValkenburgh, Sharon, N. Y.; diploma; January 22, 1862; Eclectic Medical College of Philadelphia, Pa.; also diploma, March 1, 1877; Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, N. Y.

W. S. Layman, Schoharie C. H., N. Y.; diploma; December 22, 1857; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

Peter L. Chapman, Richmondville, N. Y.; license; August 11, 1874; Eclectic Medical Society of the 23d Senatorial District, N. Y.

James Lawyer, Middleburgh, N. Y.; diploma; March 4, 1862; University City of New York, N. Y.

S. M. Van Alstine, Richmondville, N. Y.; diploma; June 13, 1854; Albany Medical College, N. Y. ✓

William Hagadorn, Gilboa, N. Y.; diploma; February, 1873; University City of New York, N. Y.

Charles K. Frazier, Cobleskill, N. Y.; diploma; January 20, 1874; Medical Department Union University, N. Y.

Charles McCulloch, Central Bridge, N. Y.; diploma; February, 1877; Albany Medical College, N. Y. ✓

John Rossman, Middleburgh, N. Y.; diploma; February, 1868; University of Medicine and Surgery of Philadelphia, Pa.

Jacob E. Norwood, Blenheim, N. Y.; diploma; November, 1864; Berkshire Medical College, Pittsfield, Mass.

Jacob A. Dockstader, Sharon Springs, N. Y.; diploma; January, 1845; Albany Medical College, N. Y. ✓

Rufus Coons, Broome Centre, N. Y.; diploma; January 22, 1862; College of Medicine and Surgery, Philadelphia, Pa.

George A. Williams, Sharon Springs, N. Y.; diploma; March 12, 1879; University City of New York, N. Y.

J. S. Akeley, West Fulton, N. Y.; diploma; March, 1870; Pennsylvania University, Pa.; also license; August 10, 1874; Eclectic Medical Society of the 23d Senatorial District, N. Y.

Olin A. Snyder, Gallupville, N. Y.; diploma; March 7, 1879; Eclectic College City of New York, N. Y.

Henry D. Wells, Middleburgh, N. Y.; diploma; December 22, 1857; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

R. Grant Havens, Jefferson, N. Y.; diploma; December 22, 1874; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

F. P. Beard, Summit, N. Y.; diploma; December 23, 1875; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

H. L. Gale, West Fulton, N. Y.; diploma; Dec. 27, 1873; University of Philadelphia, Pa.

John Hotaling, Gallupville, N. Y.; diploma; May 28, 1863; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

J. R. Anderson, Esperance, N. Y.; license; January 13, 1880; Montgomery County Homeopathic Medical Society, N. Y.

John Green, Sharon Springs, N. Y.; diploma; June 17, 1846; Castleton Medical College, Vt.

James I. Hard, Sharon Springs, N. Y.; diploma; February 27, 1877; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

David Frazier, Cobleskill, N. Y.; diploma; January 27, 1847; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

Peter A. Allen, Lawyersville, N. Y.; diploma; January 22, 1862; Eclectic Medical College of Philadelphia, Pa.

I. S. Lowell, Argusville, N. Y.; diploma; December 26, 1871; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

Hamilton A. White, Argusville, N. Y.; diploma; March 3, 1880; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

Clark D. Welch, Cobleskill, N. Y.; diploma; March 8, 1877; New York Homeopathic Medical College, N. Y.

George Haner, Conesville, N. Y.; diploma; February 20, 1877; University City of New York, N. Y.

Philip J. Zeh, Fulton, N. Y.; diploma; December 24, 1869; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

George Jackson, Huntersland, N. Y.; diploma; March 9, 1871; University City of New York, N. Y.

Richtmyer Hubbell, Jefferson, N. Y.; diploma; February 21, 1866; Philadelphia University of Medicine and Surgery, Pa.

Charles S. Burnett, North Blenheim, N. Y.; diploma; February 1, 1879; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

Valentine M. Lawyer, Fultonham, N. Y.; (no authority, date, or college given.)

David Decker, Broome Centre, N. Y.; June 30, 1870; American University of Medicine and Surgery, Pa.; diploma.

Lemuel Cross, Cobleskill, N. Y.; diploma; February 23, 1856; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

James D. Snyder, Sharon Springs, N. Y.; license; August 10, 1874; Eclectic Medical Society of 23d Senatorial District, N. Y.

Jared Chase, Warnerville, N. Y.; license; August 10, 1874; Eclectic Medical Society of 23d Senatorial District, N. Y.

I. S. Wells, Middleburgh, N. Y.; diploma; November, 20, 1833; Castleton Medical College, Vt.

S. F. Fonda, Sharon Springs, N. Y.; diploma; February 24, 1841; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

Ezra Lawyer, Cobleskill, N. Y.; diploma; November 22, 1854; Castleton Medical College, Vermont.

Isaac W. Ferris, Middleburgh, N. Y.; diploma; March 7, 1867; University City of New York, N. Y.

E. O. Bruce, Hyndsville, N. Y.; diploma;

November, 22, 1858; Castleton Medical College, Vt.

Thomas K. Kilmer, Schoharie C. H., N. Y.; diploma; January 28, 1875; Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, N. Y.

D. Norwood, Esperance, N. Y.; diploma; December, 24, 1857; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

Menzo Barkman, Gallupville, N. Y.; diploma; January, 1879; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

D. M. Leonard, Broome Centre, N. Y.; diploma; November, 1867; Castleton Medical College, Vt.

H. Sperbeck, Charlotteville, N. Y.; diploma; December, 22, 1857; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

Nancy J. Langley, Mineral Springs, N. Y.; license; (no date given) Eclectic Medical Society, 23d Senatorial District, N. Y.

Joseph R. Brown, Seward, N. Y.; diploma; December 25, 1868; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

Charles W. Havens, Summit, N. Y.; license; August 21, 1838; Schoharie County Censors of the Eclectic Medical Society.

Philip P. Werner, Barnerville, N. Y.; diploma; June, 1845; Castleton, Vermont, Medical College.

Henry A. Myer, Gardnersville, N. Y.; diploma; February 16, 1833; Syracuse Medical College, N. Y.; also license, August 11, 1874; Eclectic Medical Society of the 23d Senatorial District, N. Y.

Doctor Brayman, Livingstonville, N. Y.; diploma; February 1, 1880; University of City of New York, Medical Department.

R. J. Roscoe, Carlisle, N. Y.; diploma; March, 1852, College of Physicians State of Vermont, at Castleton.

Charles Dickerson, Seward, N. Y.; diploma; — 1860; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

R. W. Terwilliger, Carlisle, N. Y.; diploma; March, 1881; Albany Medical College, N. Y.

The first Telephone Line in the County was between Schoharie and Middleburgh, and was opened for communication in August, 1880. There were upon the first day of July, 1881, at least one hundred miles in successful operation, and other lines will soon be established until

the County is made a net-work of the simple, yet wonderful invention.

Mr. Charles Kromer became interested in the enterprise and through his energy and management the lines were established. They have thus far been built by issuing certificates of shares of stock, each share being five dollars, privileging each stockholder to have the free use of the line with which he is connected.

While the principle upon which the telephone is worked was long known, yet to Edison are we indebted for an apparatus that brings the principle to practice, and with such simplicity as to abash the inventive genius of the past. Yet we are not unmindful of the claims of Science upon improvement and must expect that a few years hence greater improvements and inventions, or other principles will become animated and made to out-strip the inventions of our day.

Newspapers.—The first newspaper published in the County was the *American Herald*, published by Derick VanVeghten. It was a small sheet and appeared in June, 1809, and some time in the year 1812, it was changed to the *Schoharie Herald*, but upon VanVeghten's enlisting in the volunteer service, the paper was discontinued. It would hardly be just to pass by without giving the hero notice, as a more patriotic and brave man could not be found. He came to Schoharie after serving an apprenticeship at Schenectady, and met with unexpected success in his enterprise, but when his country called her sons to oppose her enemy's encroachments, he answered by enrolling himself, and raising a company of which he was commissioned captain.

During the winter and early summer of 1813 and '14, he was stationed at Schenectady to guard army stores, and in the fall of the latter year, returned to Schoharie and opened a recruiting station. Having raised another company, he joined General VanRensselaer's regiment as Major, upon the frontier, and through a rash move, in making a *sortie* upon the enemy's flank—expecting to receive aid from his general—he, with his entire force, were taken prisoners, as before stated. At the close of the war, he returned to Schoharie, and in 1817 commenced the publication of the *Schoharie Budget*, and continued the same until 1819, when

he changed it to the *Schoharie Republican*. He soon disposed of his interest in the paper, and followed various branches of business, and in a financial point of view, succeeded in none. He was a tall muscular man, of slim build, active, yet rash in his movements and unconcerned as to results. He died at the house of Colonel Wilkins, at Spraker's Basin, on the 21st of March, 1844, of dropsy, and was buried near. Major VanVeghten was a bold writer, given to paroxysms of cutting sarcasm against those who dared to brave his views. Yet through his literary efforts, a large heart, good intentions, and progressive spirit could be detected, which gained for him the honor due an honest man.

In December, 1809, Thomas M. Tillman commenced the *True American*, but like VanVeghten, discontinued the sheet in 1813. He also joined the army, but of his subsequent life, we are not informed.

Returning to the *Schoharie Republican*, we find a long list of editors, whose terms of service have been successful, and we find the sheet still continued and progressive after braving the changing currents of sixty-two years. Major VanVeghten was successfully succeeded by Peter Keyser, Lemuel Cuthbert, A. A. Keyser, and Wm. H. Underwood, who, each in turn, kept up the dignity and spirit of the sheet, but events were not excitable enough to make the public consider a paper a necessity, neither had the people been educated to that thought, in a literary point of view, and consequently, double duties were imposed upon the struggling publishers, for which their financial gains were discouraging.

When Wm. H. Gallup succeeded Mr. Underwood, the political firmament began to rumble in earnest. Politics ran to fever heat, and that gentleman standing upon the firm, and growing firmer, Democratic platform, with his publication, success was assured, and when Mr. Gallup retired, the *Schoharie Republican* was looked upon as the Democratic organ of the County, which character it still assumes. Mr. Gallup was a careful, conscientious writer, modest to assume and direct, but when aroused, bold and forcible.

He was succeeded by P. D. Lawyer, who kept the sheet in the even "tenor of its way"

during the following political campaign. Mr. Lawyer was an independent writer, brief and forcible.

Ex-Judge Nathan T. Rossiter followed, whose smooth pen tended to cool political flames, and court pleasing, literary effusions. However, the political status of the sheet was maintained under the Judge's term of editorship, and its first introduction made into many households as a "family paper."

Next came J. B. Hall, a live, educated "paper man," whose glib and cutting pen shook up the dry bones of contention and made them laugh at themselves. His exclamation points and quotation dots gave evidence of firmness and faithful reading. Not to speak disparagingly of his predecessors' efforts and ability to enlarge the business of the enterprise, yet Mr. Hall increased the circulation of the paper nearly double to what it had been and infused a spirit within it more in accordance with the day and age, than any before him. He was a worker, physically and mentally, and when the concern passed from his hands in 1860, it stood inferior to no country paper in the State. Mr. Hall removed to Catskill and assumed the management of the *Catskill Recorder*, where he again labored hard, beyond the strength of his frail constitution, which soon brought him to an early grave.

J. C. Campbell, with declining health, followed Mr. Hall in the office of the *Republican*, but ere one year passed, death claimed its victim and he passed away, lamented by a host of friends.

A. B. F. Pond redressed the sheet as he followed Campbell, and the excitement of a threatened civil war, coupled with the known ability of Mr. Pond as a writer and manager, the paper enjoyed one of the most successful seasons it ever experienced. Mr. Pond was a terse, forcible writer, and dealt all subjects with his pen with a prompt business spirit. He was the son of Benjamin Pond and born in the village of Schoharie, where he received an academic education. He disposed of his interest in the paper to Sleight & Hunt, in 1865, and removed to New Jersey where he now resides. The latter firm continued as one until January 1, 1869, when the interest of Sleight

was purchased by A. A. Hunt, under whose proprietorship it still continues. Mr. Hunt is a native of Sag Harbor, L. I., and has been connected with the press from a youth. As a writer, he is quick and perceptive, original in thought, with easy and smooth expression, which has won for him a reputation as a writer that few obtain.

In 1818, a periodical was started at Schoharie C. H., called the *Observer*, but by whom we cannot learn. In 1820 it passed into the hands of Solomon Baker & Fish, and in 1822 Baker purchased the interest of Fish, but soon discontinued the sheet. Not being fortunate in obtaining a copy and having no knowledge of proprietors, we cannot speak farther of the enterprise. Rev. George A. Lintner being one of the foremost workers in the cause of religion, a true, conscientious laborer, united his able efforts with those of Lemuel Cuthbert, and on January, 1824, issued the first number of the *Evangelical Luminary*, devoted to the interest of churches and religious societies. Of Mr. Lintner, we need not here make mention, as in connection with other causes we give such notice of him as our feebleness admits. Lemuel Cuthbert was a young man of promise, deeply interested in all religious causes and imbued with a true spirit of fidelity to duty. He took a lively interest in politics, but at an early age he passed to the grave, and as Dr. Lintner once wrote, "he sleeps in his silent bed where convulsions and troubles of political life can no more reach him."

The *Lutheran Magazine* of which Dr. Lintner was editor for many years, was commenced by the "Western Conference of Lutheran ministers in 1827, and printed by Cuthbert.

The *Schoharie Free Press*, by Duncan McDonald was originally published in Johnstown, Fulton county, as the *Montgomery Monitor* and removed to Fonda, Montgomery county, in 1828, thence to Canajoharie, and in 1830 to Schoharie. Being of a roving disposition, it was removed to Esperance and published as the *Esperance Sentinel and Schoharie and Montgomery Recorder*. It was discontinued in 1836 after a fierce war against the Albany Regency. It was ably edited. A notice of its connections may be seen in the chapter on Esperance.

The *Gem* a small sheet written by students of the Academy, appeared in 1837 but it sparkled for a day and lost its luster.

The first number of the *Schoharie Patriot* was issued February 13, 1838, by Peter Mix, and it became under the control of Mr. Mix and his son S. H. Mix, in after years, a substantial sheet in the interest of the Whig party. Mr. Mix was from Johnstown, Fulton county, and was connected with the *Montgomery Republican* from 1825 to 1834, when the office and type were burned. He revived the paper, but in 1836 he was again burned out, when he removed to Schoharie. He labored hard for years to turn the political sentiment of the County but what was "born in the bone" proved to be "bred in the flesh" in that respect at least, yet Mr. Mix drew around him a host of friends and proved himself to be a firm unflinching advocate of that, which he considered right. He ably conducted his journal, and handed it over to S. H. Mix with an honorable record. Growing in years, he retired from business, and died at the age of seventy-two. [For notice of S. H. Mix, see Chapter on Schoharie.]

Upon Mr. S. H. Mix entering the army his interest in the *Patriot* passed into the hands of Henry E. Abel and changed to the *Schoharie Union*. Mr. Abel was an energetic worker, and plain, ready writer, with a tendency to sarcasm, yet the spirit and success of his paper kept its status, as a party organ. In 1867 Charles C. Kromer purchased the property and continues to be the proprietor.

Mr. Kromer passed through the civil war in the "3rd Cavalry" as Captain and returned home unharmed, but upon the accidental discharge of a pistol his right hand was shattered which compelled an amputation at the wrist. Mr. Kromer merits honor as a self-made man and patriot, and deserves sympathy in his misfortune. The *Union* adheres to the principles of Republicanism in politics, though not radically.

Mr. Kromer is a careful yet bold writer, with original thought and expression that leave a tendency to mirth. His articles are always short and embody much meaning without exaggeration.

Two small sheets *The Star* and *The Sun* were commenced in 1838, the former by S. H.

Mix and the latter by D. L. Underwood, two school boys, and after a years' existence were discontinued. The excitable times of 1840 called out a campaign sheet *The Huge Paw*, by William H. Gallup, that was published from August to November of that year, and in 1841 as the Anti-Rent troubles began to shake the earth, especially that portion of its formation known as the "Helleberg Series," Mr. Gallup again put forth a sheet entitled *The Helderbergh Advocate*, which name seemed to be too local, and in 1843 was changed to *The Guardian of the Soil*. Assuming too much in those "war-like" days it ceased its great labors after a years' experience. A semi-monthly enterprise was published by the students of the academy in 1855 called *The Oasis*, and was a spicy little sheet, the composition of which was highly commendable, in thought and expression.

All of the foregoing have been published at Schoharie Court House. In 1847, Mr. J. D. Lawyer commenced a paper at Leesville assuming the name of *The American Christian*, but was soon discontinued. Mr. Lawyer was a minister of the gospel, and the sheet was in the interest of religious matters.

The Schoharie County Sentinel was commenced at Cobleskill January 22, 1852, by Hiram C. Paige, now of the *Brooklyn Era*. Mr. Paige was succeeded by Charles Cleveland, and he by Wadhams & Kniskern, who sold the establishment to J. B. Hall, of the *Schoharie Republican*, into which it was merged. It was a wide-awake sheet, full of spirit and commanded the respect and patronage of a large circle of friends.

Furman & Brown, of Charlotteville, commenced the publication of a small sheet at that village in 1854, called the *Charlotteville Journal*. In the year following Furman sold his interest to John Brown, who removed the press to Cobleskill village and changed the name of the paper to *The Cobleskill Journal*, and published it as such but a short time when it was discontinued.

The Cobleskill Jeffersonian was commenced at Cobleskill in 1859, by Matthew Freeman, in the interest of the Republican party, to revolutionize the political sentiment of the County. Mr. Freeman was a very plain and forcible

writer and speaker, and exerted his faculties to "make a mark," but became mixed up in sarcastic imbroglions with other periodicals, which proved disastrous, as usual, to his paper's influence, and consequently its existence was short, being stopped some time in 1862. Mr. Freeman's paper was followed at Cobleskill village in the year 1865, by the *Cobleskill Index*, under the proprietorship of William H. Weeks. Mr. Weeks made it an independent sheet, devoted chiefly to local matters, and it gained a firm footing in the western towns of the County as a family paper. In 1874, Mr. George W. Belinger purchased the establishment by whom it is at present managed. During the Centennial year it was made a political organ, in the advocacy of Democratic principles, to which it has firmly adhered and become one of the staunch organs of those principles, and is now wielding a flattering influence.

On November 5, 1870, was started at Richmondville, the *Schoharie County Democrat*, by J. J. and J. L. Multer of the *Schenectady Monitor*. After a flattering patronage the "Multer Brothers" sold the establishment to J. B. Olmstead, who changed the title to *Richmondville Democrat*. It is a small sheet but outspoken and substantial, and does credit to its youthful editor.

The Middleburgh Gazette was commenced in October, 1871, at Middleburgh, by O. B. Ireland, and was soon purchased by J. E. Young, the present proprietor and editor. This sheet has been a firm advocate of administrative honesty and bold to expose political scheming and selfish power. Mr. Young has been successful in making his sheet reliable and attractive as a local paper, and gained many warm friends of the press and in the ancient dorf in which he is located.

The Jeffersonian is published at Jefferson, being started as the *Jeffersonian* by A. W. Clark as editor and publisher, on March 1, 1872, and December, 1880, was purchased by Jones & Holmes, who changed the name to *Jefferson Courier*. It is a wide-awake, spicy, independent and reliable sheet, and receives a flattering patronage from the surrounding towns. The first sheet was 18 by 24 and enlarged to 21 by 28.

Charlotte Valley News, of Charlotteville, was started by Morris & Shafer, and enlarged to a double sheet, but after a short term was removed to Davenport, Delaware county. After its enlargement it published serial stories, and was, we believe, the first and only one of the kind ever printed in the County. It is now published as above by E. O. Conner.

Sharon Springs Gazette was established by John Sawyer of the *Cherry Valley Gazette*, in 1874, and was well managed and ably edited by the veteran publisher, but the enterprise proved non-paying and was discontinued in February, 1881, and removed to Cooperstown and published as the *Living Issue*, the temperance organ of the State. Mr. Sawyer is an able writer, of clear, honest views, and gained as he justly deserved, a high regard among the County fraternity.

The Charlotteville Phoenix was begun in November, 1879, by S. G. Shafer, as an advocate of reform and independent in politics. The "hot grape" and "shells" that are found in its columns have been thrown promiscuously to the right and left, but the inevitable results are to be seen. The attacks upon officials and their organs have been bold and exacting, but attempting to create a counter current in swift running streams, requires a triple force, which only disturbs without satisfactory results. The sheet is well arranged and full of local and current news.

The Cobleskill Herald was commenced in 1877, by Johnson & Roberts, of Oneonta, in the interest of the Republican party. In 1880 Mr. Graham purchased the sheet and still edits the same. It is a firm and honest exponent of Republican principles, and receives a very flattering patronage. Mr. Graham is a careful, earnest worker and forcible writer.

The Gilboa Monitor is a small sheet published at Gilboa, by Myron Dings. It was commenced in 1878, and holds its own in patronage as well as in the discussions of events of the day. Mr. Dings is an industrious worker and careful, honest writer, and makes his sheet spicy and attractive.

Criminal.—During the County's growth regardless of the efforts of the philanthropic to better the morality of the people, crimes have

been committed of various degrees that have startled communities, to which we are loth to refer, as around them there is a halo of ignorance and brutality that is far beneath the intellect of man, and which casts a shadow over the bright picture our County presents. Tradition tells us, through author Simms and the Vroman family, of a capital offense being committed in the early days of the settlement of Vroman's land by a negro and white accomplice by the name of Moore, in the murder of one Truax.

Circumstances led to the belief in the guilt of the negro and his wife, who were servants in the family of Peter Vroman as was also the murdered man.

They were taken to Albany, tried and convicted, and placed upon a pile of fagots and burned. In after years through the bed confession of Moore, the fact was revealed that the negress was innocent of the crime and had no knowledge of it, as she protested during the trial and upon the pile of fagots.

Farther than that awful crime, except minor offences such as incendiaries, theft and trespassing nothing occurred that was brought to the public notice until after the war of 1812. Immediately after its close a vast quantity of spurious Spanish coins flooded the country that were manufactured in Canada and brought here to palm off upon the farming community. The coins were principally of the denomination of "two shilling," and led, in a few years to a greater speculation in counterfeiting paper money. The bills were upon various banks, and the men whose reputation for honesty was the best were lured away by the prospect of making riches, and procured dies and manufactured large quantities in secret. Stringent laws were passed but few of the guilty suffered. Various were the strategies of the guilty to punish the innocent, since the law demanded subjects to punish. It is a notable fact that the foundation of some families' fortunes was laid by being expert in the making and "shoving off" of the spurious.

As the excitement of the spurious money began the people were shocked by the premeditated poisoning of a lady by her inhuman husband, while stopping at an "inn" in the town of Middleburgh. An act of that kind was un-

usual in those days and created a great excitement not only in the immediate neighborhood in which the crime was committed, but far and wide.

Abraham Casler, a resident of the Mohawk, married a Miss Spraker with whom he lived upon very unpleasant terms, owing to his immorality and love for another woman. He left home upon the pretext of going West to reside, and after being away some time returned, pretended penitent, and stated he had purchased a place and was desirous of his wife accompanying him to live upon it in peace and harmony. They started in a wagon and traveled through Sharon and Cobleskill and stopped at an inn kept by one Best, on the road leading from Punchkill to Middleburgh.

Mrs. Casler complained of not feeling well, and her husband was very attentive, procuring medicine in which he added opium and arsenic alternately, till death relieved her of her troubled life. The remains were buried without the relatives being made acquainted of her decease, and upon Casler's sudden exit from the locality, suspicion was aroused and the remains exhumed.

Upon examination, opium and arsenic were found, Casler arrested and upon the testimony of Mrs. Best was convicted before Judge Yates, and hung in May, 1818, upon the hill east of the court-house. The gallows were left standing as a solemn admonition of the penalty such crimes demand, and before another year rolled round, one, who witnessed the execution of Casler, and who boasted upon leaving the scene, "they will never hang me," stood beneath the beam and forfeited his life in consequence of an ungovernable passion.

John VanAlstine, a farmer living in Sharon, becoming implicated in legal affairs, murdered a deputy sheriff, William Huddleston, while in the performance of his official duties, upon the former's farm on the 19th of October, 1818. Upon the impulse of the moment he struck the officer with a club with such force as to kill him. VanAlstine buried the body of the murdered man in a plowed field near the barn, and in the course of a day or two he mounted the officer's horse and fled to Canada. Upon suspicion of his being guilty of the crime a reward for his

apprehension was declared by the sheriff, and also the Governor of the State. He embarked upon a vessel at Black Rock, for Detroit, but a strong gale arising, the vessel was driven back to its moorings and a fellow passenger having suspicion of his being the advertised murderer, caused his arrest. He was tried before Chief Justice Spenser at a special court of Oyer and Terminer in February, 1819, and found guilty. On the 19th of March he was publicly executed as before stated, beneath the beam under which Casler suffered less than a year before.

The next and last crime of that character that occurred to the knowledge of the public was in the month of March, 1845.

John Burnett murdered George Sornberger in the present town of Broome, by nearly severing the head from the body and stabbing him in the abdomen and chest, on the 24th of March, 1845. They were residents of Broome, and it was supposed Sornberger was the possessor of a considerable sum of money, as a payment was to have been made to him upon that day. It proved otherwise, as the total sum thus fiendishly procured was but *three shillings and nine pence*. The crime was committed while the Court house lay in ashes, and the prisoner was taken to Schoharie village to be tried and to Schenectady to be hung. The execution took place in that city on the 11th day of July, 1846. The three that have paid the penalty upon the gallows made full confessions of their crimes and the justness of their sentences, which relieves us of fears that the innocent have suffered in their cases, as many times they do when circumstantial evidence only is taken.

Three cases of manslaughter have been tried in the County for which the criminals were sent to State's prison for a long term of years. We do not wish to give the particulars or the parties committed, but let their names be dropped.

A few cases have been brought to the County to be tried from adjoining counties, where juries could not agree, but the criminal record for capital offences of our county closes with the dying agonies of Burnett, and let us willingly draw a veil over this part of our County's history, hoping that long, long years may pass

ere, if ever, another occasion requires the death penalty.

Statistics.—By the census of 1810, the total population of the County was 18,945, as follows:—

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Cobleskill, | 2,494 |
| Carlisle, | 1,231 |
| Schoharie, | 3,232 |
| Middleburgh, | 3,236 |
| Sharon, | 3,751 |
| Jefferson, | 1,740 |
| Blenheim, | 1,319 |
| Broome, | 1,942 |

The following is taken from the Census Report of 1880:—

| | |
|---|-------|
| Blenheim town, including village of Blenheim, | 1,191 |
| *Blenheim village, | 221 |
| Broome town, including the following villages, | 1,636 |
| *Franklinton village, | 77 |
| *Livingstonville village, | 97 |
| Carlisle town, including the following villages, | 1,722 |
| *Carlisle village, | 128 |
| Grosvenor's Corners village, | 60 |
| Cobleskill town, including village of Cobleskill, | 3,371 |
| Cobleskill village, | 1,222 |
| Conesville town, | 1,127 |
| Esperance town, including the following villages, | 1,373 |
| *Esperance village, | 341 |
| *Sloansville village, | 200 |
| Fulton town, | 2,709 |
| Gilboa town, including the following villages, | 2,040 |
| *Gilboa village, | 203 |
| *South Gilboa village, | 50 |
| Jefferson town, | 1,636 |
| Middleburgh town, including the following villages, | 3,376 |
| *Hunter's Land village, | 172 |
| *Middleburgh village, | 1,123 |
| Richmondville town, including the following villages, | 2,082 |
| *Richmondville village, | 653 |
| *Warnerville village, | 263 |
| Schoharie town, including the following villages, | 3,350 |

| | |
|---|-------|
| *Central Bridge village, | 195 |
| Schoharie village, | 1,188 |
| Seward town, including the following villages, | 1,734 |
| *Hyndsville village, | 129 |
| *Seward Valley village, | 141 |
| Sharon town, including village of Sharon Springs, | 2,591 |
| Sharon Springs village, | 627 |
| Summit town, including the following villages, | 1,405 |
| *Charlotteville village, | 126 |
| *Summit village, | 121 |
| Wright town including village of Gallupville, | 1,591 |
| *Gallupville village, | 258 |

The villages marked with an asterisk (*) are unincorporated, and their population is given only approximately, as their limits cannot be sharply defined.

The following miscellaneous statistics are from the census of 1880:—

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Number of inhabitants, | 32,939 |
| “ Males, | 16,438 |
| “ Females, | 16,501 |
| “ Natives, | 32,199 |
| “ Foreign, | 740 |
| “ White, | 32,458 |
| “ Colored, | 481 |
| “ Indians, | 20 |
| Number of houses, | 6,686 |
| “ Frame, | 6,488 |
| “ Brick, | 57 |
| “ Stone, | 16 |
| “ Log, | 125 |
| Milch cows kept, | 20,185 |
| Sheep, | 29,293 |
| Horses of two years and over, | 8,559 |
| Working oxen and steers, (pairs,) | 1,762 |
| Acres plowed in 1875, | 72,562 |
| Acres pastured in 1875, | 92,800 |
| Acres mowed, in 1875, | 97,524 |
| Butter made in families in 1875, lbs. | 2,507,970 |
| Number of pounds cheese made by families and factories, in 1875, | 177,774 |
| Number of gallons milk sold in market, | 43,036 |
| Value of hops raised in 1875, | \$1,495,329 |
| Value of poultry sold “ | \$17,608 |
| Value of eggs “ “ | \$42,761 |
| Value of poultry owned, “ | \$48,940 |

CHAPTER V.

CIVIL WAR—THE YEAR 1861—THREATENINGS OF WAR—VENGEANCE—CAPTAIN SNYDER—VOLUNTEERS FIRST RECRUITING—COLONEL MIX AND COMRADES—THE 76TH REGIMENT—MEMBERS—134TH—MEMBERS OF COMPANIES—THE 44TH—MEMBERS—MEMBERS OF OTHER REGIMENTS—COLORED VOLUNTEERS—HERO MARTYRS.

DURING the unparalleled prosperity of the Nation the fearful hydra-headed demon of civil war chilled the country's heart-blood and made the year 1861 ever memorable upon the pages of history. Over the Southern fields that once reared such noble, patriotic sons as Washington, Marion, the Pinkneys and Randolphs, the torch of hatred was lit, and, emblazoned upon the ramparts of the Nation's outposts, were the infernal pencilings of disunion. Though from the rostrum of the political schemer and even the pulpit of reverend divines both North and South came the threatenings of war, devastation and death, yet the people—the power of the Government—were negligent of duty and awoke not to a sense of it until the tide of fanaticism had swept nearly over and undermined the temple of American liberty.

The Southern heart burst with vengeance against the walls of Sumter, in which was one of Schoharie's gallant sons, Captain George Snyder. The booming of cannon was answered from the plow, workshop and counting-room, of the East, North and West, under the folds of the "stars and stripes." Father met son, and son met brother, in deadly strife, and from every part, the moaning of mothers, widows and orphans rent the air, while the roaring of musketry and the shrieks and groans of the dying arose from many hard fought battle-fields. Avarice, ever awake to selfish ends, took advantage of the tumult, and plied her energies to unholy speculation, while justice seemed to be paralyzed and her mandates of reason unheeded. From fanatical recesses came the howlings of Pharisaical braggadocios against the loyalty of Schoharie

County. Epithets and anathemas were sent afloat to swell the volume of fraternal rage, while her sons, true to the spirits of their fathers at Plattsburgh, Oswego and Niagara, and their grandsires at Saratoga, Monmouth, and the wilds of Tryon and Albany counties, were gallantly struggling, not to avenge, but subdue the maddening spirit upon Southern soil, and guard Freedom's standard upon the citadel of the Nation, that it might bear the glorious banner of our country, for after generations to bless and protect.

We are unable to give a correct list of all that volunteered from the County, as many early did so, in distant regiments, and were credited to those counties and States in which they enlisted.

As near as we are enabled to ascertain, Hiram A. Blodgett, of Cherry Valley, afterwards Captain in the 76th regiment of N. Y. S. Volunteers, was the first that enlisted recruits in the County. The ball being put in motion, meetings were called throughout the County, and several, with enlisting papers, procured many, of whom we cannot obtain a perfect list.

Peter E. Borst, of Cobleskill, was the first to enlist in the County, and afterwards joined the 3d Cavalry, as will be seen.

S. Hoosick Mix, of Schoharie, organized the 3d New York Cavalry, in which the following enlisted from the County:—

Lieutenant-Colonel, Hoosick Mix, promoted to Colonel, killed; Captain C. C. Kromer, Captain Briar L. Wilber; Lieutenant Peter E. Borst, wounded; Lieutenant Alphonso Babcock, Lieutenant Charles Pansler; Corporal C. E. Foot, wounded, Nathaniel Rickard, killed, Henry Spilter, Ira Zeh, Henry Roberts, John M. Freeman, Rensselaer Kinney, Daniel Heron, Warren Giles. The regiment was mustered into service, August 12, 1861.

The 76th N. Y. S. V. was organized at Cherry Valley and was mustered into service.

The following were from Schoharie County and the list may be imperfect by not being able to procure the names of those who joined after the regiment was mustered into service:—

Company I.

Cook John E.,

Captain.

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Blodgett H. A., | First Lieutenant, promoted Captain. |
| Clark Peter S., | Second Sergeant, promoted Captain. |
| Liddle Wm. J., | Third Sergeant. |
| Warner Lyman, | Fourth Sergeant. |
| Rifenburgh Lewis, | Fifth Sergeant. |
| Pitts Weller, | Corporal. |
| Propper D. M., | do |
| Slater John M., | do |
| Smith Hezekiah, | do |
| Smith Silas, | do |
| Clark Coons, | Wagoner. |
| Smith Nelson B., | Musician. |
| Billings Charles H., | Private. |
| Brown Wm. H., | do |
| Murphey Chas., | do |
| Rorick John, | do |
| Schermehorn Francis, | do |
| Ottman Abram, | do |
| Alger Chas., | do |
| Barton Darius B., | do |
| Becker E. H., | do |
| Bice Henry, | do |
| Bice John J., | do |
| Boom W. H. H., | do |
| Borst J. L., | do |
| Borst Martin, | do |
| Bouck Chris, | do |
| Brazee Abram, | do |
| Cater John D., | do |
| Champnoy H., | do |
| Clark E. A., | do |
| Coons James E., | do |
| Coons J. W., | do |
| Dimond John, | do |
| Duel David H., | do |
| Dutcher T., | do |
| Eckerson John, | do |
| Edwards M., | do |
| Efner E. J., | do |
| Eller R., | do |
| Geurnsey C. H., | do |
| Hammond J. H., | do |
| Hayward Aaron, | do |
| Herron Daniel, | do |
| Hillsley J. J., | do |
| Ives Hiram R., | do |
| Lawyer Nelson, | do |
| Lawyer Wm. H., | do |

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Lockwood Jeremiah, | Private. |
| Lynes David, | do |
| Mann George D., | do |
| Mann Thomas J., | do |
| Manning Adam, | do |
| Manschaefier Jacob, | do |
| Mattice Joseph H., | do |
| Moon Lewis, | do |
| Nelson Holmes K., | do |
| Olover Gideon, | do |
| Parslow Jacob, | do |
| Parslow Wm. H., | do |
| Pierce Ralph, | do |
| Redmond Thomas, | do |
| Ruland Amos, | do |
| Shufelt Orison, | do |
| Stever Abram, | do |
| Sullivan John, | do |
| Teater Henry, | do |
| Thompkins Moses, | do |
| Traver Calvin, | do |
| Tygert G. W., | do |
| VanPatten George, | do |
| Vosburgh A., | do |
| Waggoner H., | do |
| Warner Ira, | do |
| Warner John, | do |
| Weidman Paul, | do |
| Wright Charles H., | do |
| Wright Fletcher, | do |
| Yanson Joseph, | do |
| Ives Hiram R., | do |
| Brazee Samuel, | do |

134TH REGT. N. Y. S. V.

The regiment was raised from Schoharie and Schenectady counties, and rendezvoused upon the fair-grounds at Schoharie C. H., in the months of September and October, 1862. In the fore part of November, it was taken to Washington, where Col. Geo. Danforth as a State officer was relieved of command by U. S. Colonel, D. S. A. Grede, who led them to Fairfax, where they were brigaded November 22d, in the Second Brigade (Second Division) 11th Army Corps, under the command of General Van-Steinwehr.

Charles R. Costar was appointed Colonel of the regiment while at Fairfax, which com-

mand he held during service, and which closed with the war.

The regiment participated in the actions at Chancellorsville, Gettysburgh, Missionary Ridge, Knoxville, Atlanta, Resaca, Dallas, Pine Knob, Lost Mountain, Peachtree Creek, Savannah and Goldsborough. They were unfortunate in a few of the engagements, especially at Petersburg, where many of the brave lads fell in the thickest of the fight. Typhoid fever carried many of them away, a list of which may be consulted in the latter part of this number. The following are the names of the members credited to Schoharie County as they appear in the "Muster-in-roll" with promotions as far as we are able to learn, also officers, from both counties :—

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| James M. Walkins, | Captain, Company A. |
| Henry Y. Bradt, | First Lieutenant. |
| Henry I. Palmer, | Second Lieutenant. |
| Benjamin B. Bice, | First Sergeant. |
| Garrett Horsefall, | Second Sergeant. |
| Joseph Shaw, | Third Sergeant. |
| E. VanDanDyck, | Fourth Sergeant. |
| Andrew A. Kelly, | Fifth Sergeant. |
| Joseph McGraw, | First Corporal. |
| James Scott, | Second Corporal. |
| William H. Cain, | Third Corporal. |
| Peter S. Palmer, | Fourth Corporal. |
| John Brothers, | Fifth Corporal. |
| Frank Robinson, | Sixth Corporal. |
| James A. Tullock, | Seventh Corporal. |
| William H. Dean, | Eighth Corporal. |
| Henry King, | Bugler. |
| H. C. McDonald, | Musician. |
| Alsdorf Morgan, | Private. |
| Armstrong James, | do |
| Auer Frederick, | do |
| Arnold P. J., | do |
| Brewer Richard, | do |
| Barber James W., | do |
| Bond Walter D., | do |
| Becker John B. | do |
| Babcock William, | do |
| Bebec Calvin H., | do |
| Bradt John, | do |
| Baringer Jacob, | do |
| Cain Isaac, | do |
| Chapman Lionel, | do |
| Chapman George, | do |
| Chapman George H., | do |

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Clute Nicholas, | Private. |
| Clute C. H., | do |
| Dunbar F. H., | do |
| Diefenahl Garard, | do |
| Dillon Horatio P., | do |
| Ernest L. P., | do |
| Erhart Fred. L., | do |
| Gage Wesson, | do |
| Gage Alonzo, | do |
| Gage Hiram C., | do |
| Green Aaron, | do |
| Hedding Oliver, | do |
| Hubner William, | do |
| Hays Dennis, | do |
| Hindly Thomas, | do |
| Hienaman C. H., | do |
| Kittle James E., | do |
| Kittle Solomon, | do |
| Kimball Carlton, | do |
| Landers John V., | do |
| McGraw Isaac, | do |
| McMurrin W. J., | do |
| Marcelus Nicholas, | do |
| Marcelus Thomas, | do |
| Moore William H., | do |
| Montanney J. W., | do |
| McCann James, | do |
| Markel Hurbert A., | do |
| Nicholas George, | do |
| Neverman Henry, | do |
| Nichols Nelson, | do |
| Ostrander George, | do |
| Osborn George C., | do |
| Osing Andrew, | do |
| Polch Henry, | do |
| Peasley George A., | do |
| Palmer George W., | do |
| Rickerman Antoine, | do |
| Rummus Charles, | do |
| Rosekrans Charles, | do |
| Spangler Joseph, | do |
| Swits John C., | do |
| Stevens George E., | do |
| Smith Fred., | do |
| Simpson Thomas, | do |
| Schauber H. V., | do |
| Scheck Andrew, | do |
| Tallock John K., | do |
| Tiffany George, | do |
| Tolls John A., | do |

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Tolls Cicero, | Private. |
| Towndly Caleb W., | do |
| VanPatten Silas, | do |
| Veir George H., | do |
| VanAernam Park, | do |
| VanBencotten Jerome, | do |
| VanVoast Andrew, | do |
| Ward James, | do |
| Wessel Harman, | do |
| Wilbur Silas G., | do |
| West John, | do |
| Wohnlich Christian, | do |
| Tubler Rudolph, | do |
| Young Daniel D., | do |

Company B.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| David H. Hamlin, | Captain. |
| Solomon G. Hamlin, | First Lieutenant. |
| Solomon C. Wilson, | Second Lieutenant. |

Company C.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| John Materhaghan, | Captain. |
| Jas. Glenn, | First Lieutenant. |
| Perry E. McMaster, | First Lieutenant, promoted Captain Company K., Brev. Col. |
| N. M. VanAntwert, | Sergeant. |
| Peter Haley, | do |
| James Burke, | do |
| Alonzo McKee, | do |
| Wm. H. Wilson, | do |
| Otis Guffin, | Corporal, promoted to Captain, Brev. Col. |
| Geo. H. Warner, | Corporal. |
| Walter Stocker, | do |
| Orin Warner, | do |
| Jno. D. Gardner, | do |
| Peter W. Keyser, | do |
| Levi Moore, | do |
| S. D. Lyons, | do |
| John Taggart, | Drummer. |
| George Kniskern, | Fifer. |
| Allen Chas. B., | Private. |
| Borst Cornelius, | do |
| Borst Hiram, | do |
| Borst David S., | do |
| Brown Stephen M., | do |
| Brown Harvey, | do |
| Becker David S., | do |
| Borst William, | do |

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Bradt Joseph, | Private. |
| Bailey Stillman, | do |
| Bradt Clark, | do |
| Cook Daniel S., | do |
| Cassidy Martin, | do |
| Cady Alonzo, | do |
| Cornell Schuyler, | do |
| Cornell Wm. H., | do |
| Clark Peter D., | do |
| Clark Abram D., | do |
| Cartwright G. W., | do |
| Clute John, | do |
| Clute Henry, | do |
| Clute Charles, | do |
| Coonradt Abram D., | do |
| Coonradt Peter, | do |
| Dykman Jas. M., | do |
| Dings Truman, | do |
| Devoe Wm. A., | do |
| Duell George, | do |
| Dey Benjamin, | do |
| Esmey Jedediah, | do |
| Gunther Charles, | do |
| Gardner Riley S., | do |
| Gorden Henry W., | promoted Corporal. |
| Groot Adam, | do |
| Guffin Cyrus, | do |
| Gage Hiram M., | do |
| Gardnier Wm. I., | do |
| Holmes John H., | do |
| Haley Martin, | do |
| Hayner Austin, | do |
| Hyney Daniel, | do |
| Hyney John L., | do |
| Hyney Charles, | do |
| Keyser Jacob H., | do |
| Kahn Conrad, | do |
| McMillen Wm. H., | do |
| Mickel Weston G., | regt. Color Bearer. |
| Mutter Joseph, | do |
| Morris George H., | do |
| Marsh John Y., | do |
| Manchester John A., | do |
| Nelson Sylvanus H., | do |
| Nelson Wm. H., | do |
| Polmyteer Jacob, | do |
| Pindar Jacob, | do |
| Rose Wm., | do |
| Ryfenbark Ebenezer, | do |
| Rowly Elias S., | do |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Rasue Leonard, | Private. | Isaac Van Kleek, | Musician. |
| Rowe Jas. B., | do | Hamilton B. Bouck, | Musician. |
| Snyder J. M., | do | Orin M. Duncan, | Teamster. |
| Spawn Wm., | do | Alvernon Wm. B., | Private. |
| Stillwell W. T., | do | Allen Charles, | do |
| Stillwell S. J., | do | Allen David C., | do |
| Stillwell D. H., | do | Armlin Wm., | do |
| Smeaton Albert, | do | Borst Merrit J., | do |
| Sagendorf John, | do | Brown John, | do |
| Swarthout Jas. H., | do | Bergen Michael, | do |
| Taggart James, | do | Bachus William, | do |
| Tyrrell Sam'l., | do | Blodgett J. H., | do |
| Talmage Oliver, | do | Bevens William, | do |
| Towero Wm., | do | Brownell Jonathan, | do |
| Underhill Washington I., | do | Babcock John, | do |
| Van Guilder Geo. W., | do | Burnett Wesley A., | do |
| Van Dyck C. R., | do | Burnett Isaac, | do |
| Van Slyke Cornelius R., | do | Brooks John H., | do |
| Van Dyck Edward, | do | Coons M. W., | do |
| Van DeGrift John S., | do | Cosgrove Chas., | do |
| Witbeck Pelet, | do | Chichester Albert, | do |
| Woodsworth Lansing, | do | Cleveland John C., | do |
| Warner Isaac, | do | Cartwright Wm., | do |
| Warner David A., | do | Curtis Abram, | do |
| Weaver Charles H., | do | Clark Mortimer, | do |
| Weaver Benj. F., | do | Coons Jacob, | do |
| Wood Abram R., | do | Cartwright Alonzo, | do |
| Wood Lewis M., | do | Cain Reuben, | do |
| White David C., | do | Dibble Jesse, | do |
| Wolford Minor, | do | Doney Benjamin, | do |
| Welton Wm. H., | do | Doney David, | do |
| Shafer Edward, | do | Deman Henry, | do |
| Bellinger Conrad, | do | Decker Chas. L., | do |
| <i>Company D.</i> | | Donovan Clinton I., | do |
| A. H. Southwell, | Captain. | Gifford Johnson, | do |
| S. L. Mitchell, | First Lieutenant. | Hallenbeck H., | do |
| C. W. Hinman, | Second Lieutenant. | Ham Robert, | do |
| Alonzo Parslow, | First Sergeant. | Hagerdorn Christopher, | do |
| Geo. W. Bishop, | Second Sergeant. | Haskin Henry, | do |
| A. J. Dickinson, | Third Sergeant. | Hittsley John, | do |
| C. B. Barnhart, | Fourth Sergeant. | Keyser Ephraim H., | do |
| Abrm. C. Conklin, | First Corporal. | Kelsey William P., | do |
| Peter H. Zeh, | Second Corporal. | Kelsey Albert M., | do |
| Stephen Hillsinger, | Third Corporal. | Keyser Jonas, | do |
| Harvey J. Tiffany, | Fourth Corporal. | Meeker Henry W., | do |
| W. H. Brane, | Fifth Corporal. | Mattice Henry M., | do |
| Levi O. Fox, | Sixth Corporal. | Perry Solomon, | do |
| James Best, | Seventh Corporal. | Plough Ephraim, | do |
| Addison Cornwell, | Eighth Corporal. | Parslow Adam, | do |
| | | Parslow Anthony, | do |

| | |
|---|----------|
| Palmer William H., | Private. |
| Reynolds Edgar, | do |
| Reinhart Jacob, | do |
| Smith Chas. C., | do |
| Scram John, | do |
| Sitzor Seth, | do |
| Shafer Deverue, | do |
| Stafford Reuben H., | do |
| Sweet Sylvanus, | do |
| Scram George H., | do |
| Shafelt Peter, | do |
| Styner Jacob, | do |
| Schell Jacob, Jun., | do |
| Teater Daniel, | do |
| Teater Heleam, | do |
| Thurston Thomas, | do |
| Traver Charles, | do |
| Traver Erastus, | do |
| Treman Oscar I., | do |
| Whitnig John H., | do |
| Wereley Reuben, | do |
| Winewright George H., | do |
| Weidman Septemas, | do |
| Watson John I., | do |
| Wheeler George, | do |
| Warner Wm. H., | do |
| Wood Chas. N., | do |
| Whilsing George, | do |
| Weidman George D., | do |
| Livingston Sylvester, | do |
| Weidman James, Private, promoted Corporal. | |

Company E.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| John B. Vroman, | Captain. |
| S. H. Newcomb, | First Lieutenant. |
| Peter Deoy, | Second Lieutenant. |
| Joel Warner, | First Sergeant. |
| Wm. W. Jackson, | Second Sergeant. |
| C. G. Tyler, | Third Sergeant. |
| G. R. Payne, Fourth Sergeant, promoted Lieutenant. | |
| Jerome Simpson, | Fifth Sergeant. |
| Jas. M. Dart, | First Corporal. |
| Jas. Driscoll, | Second Corporal. |
| Oscar Spickerman, | Third Corporal. |
| I. F. Mabee, | Fourth Corporal. |
| J. C. Starkins, | Fifth Corporal. |
| Stephen E. Beller, | Sixth Corporal. |
| Robert Veley, | Seventh Corporal. |

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| T. S. Vroman, | Eighth Corporal. |
| O. B. Curtis, | Drummer. |
| Armstrong Alfred, | Private. |
| Brown Albert, | do |
| Becker William A., | do |
| Birchard Joseph, | do |
| Burnett Oswald, | do |
| Barry Jeremiah, | do |
| Berchard L. D., | do |
| Baker J. W., | do |
| Cammer John H., | do |
| Crapser Jesse A., | do |
| Craighton Henry, | do |
| Craighton D. W., | do |
| Champlin Stanton, | do |
| Craw George, | do |
| Champlin George W., | do |
| Driggs C. A., | do |
| Dingman Reuben, | do |
| Dudley Addison, | do |
| Dany Philip, | do |
| Elleason Charles, | do |
| Eggenor W. W., | do |
| Ellet Peleg, | do |
| Eglerston J. D., | do |
| Eglerston Miles, | do |
| Farrington A. L., | do |
| Finch William H., | do |
| Gavett Leander, | do |
| Hughs J. S., | do |
| Hay James D., | do |
| Happy J. W., | do |
| Hubbard Michael, | do |
| Hallock N., | do |
| Harm A., | do |
| Inghram E., | do |
| Jackson D., | do |
| Jackson Jeremiah, | do |
| Judd George, | do |
| Jump William, | do |
| Lockwood Alexander, | do |
| Layman Charles A., | do |
| Monroe A., | do |
| McIntyre A., | do |
| Martin Charles, | do |
| Mattice H. C., | do |
| Murphy James, | do |
| Nichols Isaac P., | do |
| Porter R. S., | do |
| Reed William L., | do |

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Reed Ellis, | Private. |
| Reed David, | do |
| Reed William, | do |
| Robinson F., | do |
| Roe J. P., | do |
| Rull Leiman, | do |
| Smith William R., | do |
| Sloat S., | do |
| Stoker C. M., | do |
| Sprague Alonzo, | do |
| Sommers S. B., | do |
| Shelmandine L., | do |
| Sagendorf A., | do |
| Sager Jacob, | do |
| Sharff Henry, | do |
| Shilmandine John, | do |
| Shelmandine E. B., | do |
| Simpson John, | do |
| Thomas Elias, | do |
| Thorne William, | do |
| Thomas John, | do |
| Vanlan Dewit, | do |
| Vanloan O. D., | do |
| Vroman J. W., | do |
| Vroman A. L., | do |
| Wilber P. C., | do |
| Wilber Hiram, | do |
| Widman J. D., | do |
| Weed J. M., | do |
| Winters Frank, | do |
| Witbeck G. H., | do |
| Wederman John, | do |
| Winne Lafayette, | do |
| Warner Alvah, | do |
| Yanson Peter, | do |
| Yoemans H. A., | do |

Company F.

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| G. D. Kennedy, | Captain. |
| G. A. Turnbull, | First Lieutenant. |
| Clinton C. Brown, | Second Lieutenant. |
| William H. Rowe, | First Sergeant. |
| J. W. Kennedy, | Second Sergeant. |

Company G.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Henry C. Cook, | Captain, (resigned). |
| Henry Parsons, | First Lieutenant. |
| Wilber F. Ramsey, | Second Lieutenant. |
| C. W. Taylor, | First Sergeant, promoted Captain, Brevet Major. |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| John Secombe, | Second Sergeant. |
| James H. Foland, | Third Sergeant. |
| George W. Guernsey, | Fourth Sergeant. |
| Martin Jones, | Fifth Sergeant. |
| Thompson Underhill, | First Corporal. |
| William W. Herron, | Second Corporal. |
| G. L. Brewster, | Third Corporal. |
| Charles Mayer, | Fourth Corporal. |
| Jarvis Swift, | Fifth Corporal. |
| James Brownler, | Sixth Corporal. |
| G. W. Douglas, | Seventh Corporal. |
| Robert Vaughn, | Eighth Corporal. |
| Brown Sovereign, | Private. |
| Bice Asher D., | do |
| Beaver George R., | do |
| Brandenstine Jacob, | do |
| Batchelor L., | do |
| Boughton Lendon E., | do |
| Boughton J. B., | do |
| Bullis Charles, | do |
| Beh John, | do |
| Clute J. P., | do |
| Campbell Peter, | do |
| Campbell Duncan, | do |
| Campbell James, | do |
| Cleveland H. M., | do |
| Cleveland Alexander, | do |
| Drum P. H., | do |
| Donovan John, | do |
| Driggs Alonzo, | do |
| Dingman J. A., | do |
| Earls William W., | do |
| Fuller Rodman S., | do |
| Gutlin James, | do |
| Gillbourne D., | do |
| Hummel R. S., | do |
| Haner David, | do |
| Jerroldman Jacob, | do |
| King Stephen, | do |
| King Peter, | do |
| Kater A. D., | do |
| King J. H., | do |
| King Lawrence, | do |
| Loucks Ira, | do |
| Lake M. S., | do |
| Lehman D. W., | do |
| Maddock E., | do |
| Moak N. D., | do |
| Mann George D., | do |
| Morris G. H., | do |

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Near S. D., | Private. | T. G. Liddle, | Third Corporal. |
| O'Gorman William, | do | Robt. Seaman, | Fourth Corporal. |
| Onderkirk H., | do | H. G. Teller, | Fifth Sergeant. |
| Perry N. S., | do | E. J. Mockrie, | Sixth Sergeant. |
| Pitcher Conrad, | do | C. W. Austin, | Seventh Sergeant. |
| Parmlee John, | do | Jas. Waddell, | Eighth Sergeant. |
| Palmatier Daniel, | do | Ackley E. S., | Private. |
| Palmatier Willis, | do | Acker Adam, | do |
| Palmatier David, | do | Abells J. W., | do |
| Paris Charles, | do | Brown E. P., | do |
| Parson Alx., | do | Brown I. R., | do |
| Pitcher A. A., | do | Barrows Daniel, | do |
| Paris Levi, | do | Barrows C. D., | do |
| Roney Barney, | do | Burbank H. H., | do |
| Richtmyer, H., | do | Bradt George, | do |
| Slater William, | do | Bradt Olvon, | do |
| Schermerhorn Alx., | do | Bradt A. D., | do |
| Sperbeck Orlando, | do | Bradt Aaron, | do |
| Scripture N. R., | do | Bennet Geo., | do |
| Straight Alonzo, | do | Barkhuff Jas. H., | do |
| Smith Andrew, | do | Brigner Andrew, | do |
| Stanton Lorin T., | do | Beckler John, | do |
| Van Kleeck Hugo, | do | Brumagin Peter, | do |
| Wightman C. B., | do | Burke James H., | do |
| Walters A. L., | do | Corl Robert, | do |
| Winne James, | do | Counterline Chas., | do |
| Wilday Albert, | do | Counterline Wm., | do |
| Watson D. A., | do | Campbell Lewis, | do |
| Young Nelson S., | do | Chamberlin J. P., | do |
| Zeh Martin G., | do | Chilson Lorin, | do |
| Zeh David, | do | Cotton Wm., | do |
| Brown S., | do | Cotton Daniel, | do |
| Michael Geo., | do | Connell John, | do |
| Brown John, | do | Davis C. O., | do |
| Rhinehart Jacob, | do | Douglas J. E., | do |
| Sager Jacob, | do | Dougall R. C., | do |
| Sagendorf Andrew, | do | Earles W. W., | do |
| King Wm. H., | do | Fields S. S., | do |

Company H.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Austin A. Yates, | Captain. |
| Gerardus Carley, | First Lieutenant. |
| Marcus A. Herrick, | Second Lieutenant. |
| A. W. Barry, | First Sergeant. |
| W. H. Mickel, | Second Sergeant. |
| Wm. E. Rockwell, | Third Sergeant. |
| A. W. Degolyer, | Fourth Sergeant. |
| R. S. Smith, | Fifth Sergeant. |
| Wm. Johnson, | First Corporal. |
| E. W. Bowen, | Second Corporal. |

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Filkins Benj. C., | do |
| Hughs David, | do |
| Jones John C., | do |
| Kenneday Jas., | do |
| Kohn Lewis, | do |
| Kughts Michall, | do |
| Kagner T., | do |
| Lester Alanson, | do |
| Lester John, | do |
| Lester M., | do |

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Levey W. T., | Private. |
| Murphy Jerry, | do |
| Miller James, | do |
| Mesech H. G., | do |
| Mackey Wm., | do |
| Myers Henry, | do |
| Oudekirk P., | do |
| Preston Henry, | do |
| Padley Wm. N., | do |
| Palmer H., | do |
| Rockwell Henry, | do |
| Rockwell Jay, | do |
| Reagles Geo. M., | do |
| Russell Jerry, | do |
| Stebbins John, | do |
| Sherman Borton, | do |
| Sharpe Abram, | do |
| Squires Geo., | do |
| Starks Peter, | do |
| Smith Wm., | do |
| Somes H. M., | do |
| Tymeson Peter, | do |
| Truax Peter, | do |
| Trip Henry, | do |
| Vanhuyesen John, | do |
| Valkman John, | do |
| VanWormer J. H., | do |
| VanAntwert Peter, | do |
| Walters Chas., | do |
| Wood Chas., | do |
| Wasson A. J., | do |
| Wilsey A. J., | do |

Company I.

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Frank Fletcher, | Captain and Chaplain. |
| Albert G. Washburne, | First Lieutenant. |
| Wm. F. Baldwin, | Second Lieutenant. |
| Charles Ahreets, | First Sergeant. |
| Wm. E. Teller, | Second Sergeant. |
| C. T. Hunter, | Third Sergeant. |
| Wesley Little, | Fourth Sergeant. |
| W. O. Beach, | Fifth Sergeant. |
| Jarvis Moore, | First Corporal. |
| Wm. Countermine, | Second Corporal. |
| John Cornell, | Third Corporal. |
| N. Nichols, | Fourth Corporal. |
| C. VanAernam, | Fifth Corporal. |
| Thomas Mann, | Sixth Corporal. |
| E. Dennison, | Seventh Corporal. |
| E. Patterson, | Eighth Corporal. |

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Bevins M. M., | Private. |
| Bellenger H., | do |
| Burnett G. G., | do |
| Brand A. L., | do |
| Burger Peter, | do |
| Brotherton J., | do |
| Barry James, | do |
| Bakeman Charles, | do |
| Barrows Daniel, | do |
| Coons Jacob, | do |
| Cator Janus, | do |
| Curtis Lorenzo, | do |
| Clow Wm., | do |
| Cator J. H. D., | do |
| Contyne Joseph, | do |
| Connelly Patrick, | do |
| Driggs Emery, | do |
| Duel J. F., | do |
| Duncan Ora, | do |
| Earl Wilbur N., | do |
| Follensbee George, | do |
| Friend Peter, | do |
| Fitzpatrick Ed., | do |
| Goodfellow H., | do |
| Goodspeed Wm., | do |
| Houghtailing E., | do |
| Houghtailing S., | do |
| Houghtailing A., | do |
| Houghtailing P., | do |
| Hassong Leopold, | do |
| Ham John J., | do |
| Husner John, | do |
| Hitsley Jacob, | do |
| Jones LeGrande, | do |
| Joslin John, | do |
| Jenner Charles, | do |
| Jennings James, | do |
| Kniskern George, | do |
| Livingston H., | do |
| Layman Wallace, | do |
| Larabee Thomas, | do |
| Myer Henry, | do |
| Mace Jefferson, | do |
| Merenees Wm., | do |
| Mereness Jacob, | do |
| Plue Peter, | do |
| Pratt George, | do |
| Quinn Thomas, | do |
| Rider Reuben, | do |
| Rooker Ira, | do |

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Slater Ira, | Private. |
| Spoor Marcellus, | do |
| Scrum Jacob, | do |
| Salsbury Amasa, | do |
| Spoor John E., | do |
| Stock Christian, | do |
| Smith George W., | do |
| Tallerday Wm. H., | do |
| Turner John G., | do |
| TenEyck Hiram, | do |
| Taggart J. A., | do |
| Vrooman Wm., | do |
| Wayman David, | do |
| Weightman Wm., | do |
| Young Grosvenor, | do |
| Wiltsey Wm., | do |
| Shafer Levi, | do |
| Germond George, | do |
| West Zadok, | do |
| Palmateer Jacob, | do |
| Stillwell S. G., | do |
| Stillwell D. H., | do |
| Tyrell Samuel, | do |
| Borst Wm., | do |

Company K.

Perry E. McMaster, Captain, promoted to
Lieutenant-Colonel.

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Henry Frederick, | First Lieutenant. |
| J. Wm. Burkhart, | Second Lieutenant. |
| Chas. Gartland, | First Sergeant. |
| Frederick Neuber, | Second Sergeant. |
| Beck Wm., | Private. |
| Bellenger Jacob, | do |
| Blum Christ., | do |
| Blesser Frank, | do |
| Breithaupt Jacob, | do |
| Burk Simon, | do |
| Burk James, | do |
| Bermbeck Conrad, | do |
| Benz Christian, | do |
| Clement John, | do |
| Eisenmenger Fred, | do |
| Devoe Hiram, | do |
| Geiser Jacob, | do |
| Gernsmer Ferdinand, | do |
| Haflinger John, | do |
| Horn Valentine, | do |
| Herrman Phil., | do |
| Holmes Edwin, | do |

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Klutz Charles, | Private. |
| Kunst Frederick, | do |
| Keller John, | do |
| Lasumea T., | do |
| Link Peter, | do |
| Marion John, | do |
| Murphy John, | do |
| Rode John, | do |
| Rheinisch John, | do |
| Schellkopf John, | do |
| Schuster Anton, | do |
| Schmidt Joseph, | do |
| Schmidt Thomas, | do |
| Uglitz Charles, | do |
| Wagner John, | do |
| Wilbeck Abram, | do |
| Watchtell Philip, | do |
| Wurster Philip, | do |
| Van Able John, | do |
| Myer Henry, | do |
| Fitzgerald Wm., | do |
| Ball C. L. S., | do |
| Tyall Anthony, | do |
| Feathers Samuel, | do |
| Bunge Chas., | do |
| Van DeBogart Geo., | do |
| Truan Theodore, | do |
| White John C., | do |
| Schneider Fred, | do |
| Hedden Olover, | do |
| O'Ring Andrew, | do |
| Backer Wm., | do |
| Travis Stephen, | do |
| Williams Geo. H., | do |
| Weaver Samuel, | do |
| Cater Wm., | do |
| Undyk John, | do |
| Palmateer G. H., | do |
| Tidger George, | do |
| Schwarzman Adam, | do |
| Cornelius Davis, | do |
| Boiler John G., | do |
| Stooker Charles, | do |
| Stopper John, | do |
| Groope David, | do |
| Scharff Henry, | do |
| Winters Frank, | do |
| Barry Jeremiah, | do |
| Johnson Peter, | do |
| Happy J. W., | do |

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Beaver Peter, | Private. |
| Judd George, | do |
| Van DeBogart I., | do |
| Martin Wm., | do |
| Ashton George, | do |
| Zessut Jacob, or Joseph, | do |
| Bellinger Conrad, | do |
| Welton Wm. H., | do |
| Wolford Minor, | do |
| Zunest William, | do |
| Smith Wm. R., | do |
| Balders Chas., | do |

44TH REG'T. N. Y. S. VOLS.

We regret exceedingly our inability to obtain a correct list of the brave boys that enlisted in the 44th, from the County. The regiment rendezvoused at Cooperstown and was mustered in the U. S. service at Washington in 1862.

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Robt. W. Gardner, | Corporal. |
| Norman Ottman, | Private. |
| Martin Stewart, | do |
| John F. Chase, | do |
| David Claus, | do |
| Wm. Eckerson, Jun., | do |
| Emery A. Shaver, | do |
| Rufus Esmay, | do |
| Theodore Garnsey, | do |
| Aaron H. Esmay, | do |

SCATTERING.

The following names and regiments to which they belonged we have been fortunate in finding, and being scattered throughout the State we will place them as follows:—

Archer John H., Private, 61st Regiment, Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Bice Henry, Private, 91st Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Brown Charles, Private, 91st Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Becker Vinton, Corporal, 3d Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Budg Daniel, Private, 7th Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Bowie James, Private, 102d Regiment Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Bevins John, Private, 7th Regiment Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Bevins Dennis, Private, 7th Regiment Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Duel George H., Private, 93d Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Duel Levi, Private, 7th Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Ensign Frederick, Private, 4th Heavy Artillery, U. S. Regulars.

Fox Samuel W., Sergeant, 175th Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Funk Simeon, Private, 34th Art'y, N. Y. S. V.

Grovenor Perry, Private, unknown.

Gorden William H., Private, 25th, promoted to Captain, 61st N. Y. S. V.

Hanson Nicholas, Lieutenant, 3d Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Hyney John H., Corporal, 90th Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Huested William, Private, 142d Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Hillsinger John H., Private, 5th Infantry, Iowa.

Hurst Robert, Private, 61st Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Hemstreet Charles, Corporal, Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

King Peter, Private, 7th Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Lane Stanton, Private, 102d Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Little Loren L., Private, 61st Infantry N. Y. S. V.

Mead Ephraim, Private, 90th Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Mattice Spenser, Private, 81st Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Moyer Sylvanus, Private, 115th Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Marble George, Private, 7th Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Marshall Thomas, Private, 7th Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Ostrander John, Private, 87th Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Pitcher Jerry D., Private, 1st Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Pichet Peter, Private, 7th Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Relyea John, Private, 91st Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Salsbury George, Private, 91st Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Shaver George A., Private, 91st Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Stanton John H., Private, 43d Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Shaver William, Corporal, 177th Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

VanWormer Isaac, Private, 7th Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

VanWormer J. H., Private, 7th Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

VanWagoner James, Private, 7th Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Witbeck Martin, Lieutenant, 51st Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

White Stephen P., Private, 57th Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Tillapaugh Washington, Private, in a Western Regiment.

Herrick John, Private, 91st Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Benjamin W. Gilbourne, Private, — Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Perry Grovenor, Private, — Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Barney Higgins, Private, U. S. Infantry.

R. G. Havens, Surgeon, 139th Regiment, N. Y. S. V.

J. M. Esmy, Private, 101st Regiment, N. Y. S. V.

P. E. Moore, Private, 4th Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Charles Bothwick, Private, 53d Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

H. H. Woolford, Private, 17th Battery, N. Y. S. V.

William Hogan, Private, 93d Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Peter Towers, Private, 8th Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

John R. Meek, Private, 91st Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

George W. Clement, Private, 78th Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

George W. Boorne, Private, 121st Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Walter A. Dingman, Private, 23d Battery, N. Y. S. V.

Oswal Burnet, Private, 12th Battery, N. Y. S. V.

Cyrus W. Ryder, Private, 133d Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

M. Rockefeller, Private, 91st Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Frank Phaniff, Private, 50th Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

William Kennedy, Private, 91st Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

P. S. Taber, Private, 91st Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Harrison Propper, Private, 120th Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Benjamin Rennolds, Private, 144th Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

John P. Lambert, Private, 80th Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Edwin Bruce, Private, 80th Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

George W. Evens, Private, 1st M. F. Eng., N. Y. S. V.

Joseph S. Perry, Private, 2d Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Wesley Spore, Private, 91st Infantry, N. Y. S. V.

Stephen S. King, Private, 7th Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

Judson Sprong, Private, 152d N. Y. Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

John Thrall, Private, Ellsworth Revengers.

Philip H. Michaels, Private, 3d Heavy Artillery, N. Y. S. V.

COLORED VOLUNTEERS.

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| Berg Henry, | Private, | 20th Regt. | U. S. C. T. |
| Becker John, | do | do | do |
| Burhans George, | do | do | do |
| Cain David, | do | do | do |
| Charlton Jacob, | do | do | do |
| Dewit Henry T., | do | do | do |
| Enders Samuel, | do | do | do |
| Hoyt Richard, | do | 26th | do |
| Hoyt Samuel, | do | 20th | do |
| Jackson Arch., | do | 11th | do R. I. C. T. |
| Kilmer James H., | do | 11th | do H. A. N. Y. V |
| Keyser Abraham, | do | 26th | do U. S. Col'd T. |
| Keyser Zachariah, | do | do | do |
| Larkin Thomas, | do | 20th | do |
| Larkin Adam, | do | 11th | do R. I. H. A. |
| Lewis John, | do | do | do |
| Lawyer Peter, | do | 20th | do U. S. Col'd T. |
| Lauts Jerry, | do | do | do |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|---|-------|---------------|
| Mitchell William, | Private, | 31st | Regt. | U. S. C. T. |
| Murphy Charles, | do | 20th | do | do |
| Murphy Samuel, | do | do | do | do |
| Ray John, | do | 11th | do | R. I. H. A. |
| Smoke William, | do | 31st | do | U. S. C. V. |
| Schermerhorn John, | do | do | do | do |
| Sternberg Henry, | do | 26th | do | do |
| Smoke Josiah, | do | do | do | do |
| Sternbergh Lorenzo, | do | do | do | do |
| Teaboard George, | do | 20th | do | do |
| Teaboard William, | do | 11th | do | R. I. H. Art. |
| Teaboard Jacob, | do | do | do | do |
| Tompson William, | do | 26th | do | U. S. C. Vol. |
| Tompson Lysander, | do | do | do | do |
| Teabout Harry, | do | do | do | do |
| Teabout Richard H., | do | 31st | do | do |
| Vroman Harrison, | do | 11th | do | R. I. H. A. |
| Vroman Daniel, | do | 26th | do | U. S. C. V. |
| Sees Thomas, | do | enlisted in white regiment in 1861, killed. | | |

SCHOHARIE'S HONORED DEAD.

Since we have chronicled the names of those who went forth to battle for their country as far as we have been able to glean from promiscuous lists, let us turn to those who laid their lives upon our country's altar as a sacrifice to her greatness, independence and liberty, and a seal to their loyalty.

Through the kindness of Mr. H. H. Johnson, a literary gentleman of Hyndsville, we are able to furnish a list of the soldiers from Schoharie County, who died in service during the Rebellion, with their birthplace, date of enlistment and death, being extracts from articles written by Mr. Johnson, and published in the *Cobleskill Herald*, entitled "Hero Martyrs of Schoharie County."

George W. Snyder. [See Cobleskill.]

Simon Hoosick Mix. [See Schoharie.]

David Haner, private, Company G, 134th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; born in the town of Sharon, March 16, 1843; enlisted in August, 1862. Participated in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburgh. Not found after the latter battle and supposed to have been taken prisoner and died in a rebel prison.

John F. Duel, private, Company I, 134th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; born in the town of Scho-

harie about the year 1811; enlisted September 4, 1862. Died at Fairfax Court House, Va., December 3, 1862.

William H. Cornell, private, Company —, 134th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in Lisle, Broome county, March 5, 1840; enlisted August 14, 1862. Fought in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburgh, and was killed by a railroad collision July 15, 1864.

Jesse Albert Crasper, private of Company E, 134th Regiment N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Summit, in 1843; enlisted in 1862; was taken prisoner at Gettysburgh, and confined in "Libby Prison," at Richmond, Va., where he died.

Wm. T. Stillwell, private, Company C, 134th Regiment N. Y. S. Vols.; was born at Prattsville, Greene county, from whence he removed, at an early age, to Summit, Schoharie County; enlisted, September 23, 1862; died with spotted fever, December 23, 1862, at Fredericksburgh, Va.

David H. Stilwell, private, Company C, 134th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Summit, March 14, 1844; enlisted September 23, 1862; fought at Gettysburgh and other battles, and died at Murfreesborough, Tenn., April 4, 1863.

Jacob Mereness, private, Company I, 134th Regiment N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Sharon, January 24, 1834; enlisted in August, 1862, and died near Fredericksburgh, Va., of chronic diarrhea, December 22, 1862.

Cornelius R. VanSlyke, private, Company C, 134th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols. Born in the town of Seward, June 4, 1840; enlisted in September, 1862, and was killed at the battle of Gettysburgh.

Corporal Henry W. Gordon, Company C, 134th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Carlisle, June 22, 1837; enlisted August 11, 1862; died of inflammation of the lungs, in the summer of 1863.

Wm. H. Clute, private, Company C, 134th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born at Spraker's Basin, Montgomery county, August 28, 1837, from whence he removed to Schoharie County; enlisted August 11, 1862, and died June 14, 1863, from the effects of a kick received from a mule, at Germantown.

Lieutenant George R. Payne, of Company E, 134th Regiment; was born in the town of Fulton, in the year 1840; enlisted in August, 1862. He fought at the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburgh. Was captured in the latter, by the Rebels, but was re-taken by the federal troops, and was killed by a bullet at the battle of Rocky Face.

Corporal James Weidman, of Company D, 134th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Jefferson; enlisted in the summer of 1862; fought at Chancellorsville, Missionary Ridge, Rocky Face, Resaca, Lost Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, and Atlanta. At the last mentioned place, he was mortally wounded, and died the next day.

James Guffin, private, Company G, 134th Regiment; was born in the town of Carlisle, February 22, 1832; enlisted in September, 1862; fought at Chancellorsville, Gettysburgh, and was killed by a cannon ball at Kenesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864.

Levi Duel, private, Company K, 7th N. Y. Heavy Artillery; born in the town of Schoharie, in 1841; enlisted August 4, 1862; was captured during the battle in front of Petersburg, and died in Andersonville prison, August 15, 1864.

Corporal George H. Duel, 93d Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Wright, March 3, 1841, enlisted in the autumn of 1861; fought in several battles, and died from consumption, in October, 1864, brought on by exhaustion in the battle of the Wilderness.

Spencer Mattice, was a private in Company D, 81st Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Wright, July 3, 1848; enlisted March 31, 1864, and died of typhoid fever at Hampton Hospital, August 2, 1864.

John Jost Hillsby, private, Company I, 76th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Cobleskill, in the year 1821; enlisted in the autumn of 1861, and died of fever near Fredericksburgh, August 9, 1862.

John Ostrander, private, 87th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; born in the town of Jefferson, December 18, 1842; enlisted October 17, 1861; fought in the following battles: Williamsburgh, James River, Hanover Court House, Fair Oaks, and the seven days battle before Richmond, when he was wounded and his regiment all

killed or taken prisoners, except four, of which number John was one. After recovering from his wounds, he fought at the battles of Cedar Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburgh, Gettysburgh, and the battle of the Wilderness, where he was killed by a bullet.

John H. Stanton, private, 43d Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Fulton; enlisted in February, 1862. Fought at the battle of Williamsburgh and died of fever, June 25, 1862.

Norman Ottman, private, 44th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Sharon, April 1, 1825; enlisted September 18, 1862. He fought at the battles of Fredericksburgh and Chancellorsville. In the latter conflict he was killed by a piece of shell.

Martin Stewart, a private in the 44th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Fulton, March 12, 1839; enlisted August 22, 1861. He died at the hospital of Fort Wood, in New York Harbor, of fever, June 8, 1862.

John F. Chase, private, Company D, 44th Regiment; born in Bennington, Vt., whence at an early age he removed to the town of Fulton, Schoharie County; enlisted in the month of September, 1861. Fought at Yorktown; died of typhoid fever, in a hospital in New York City, May 15, 1862.

Corporal Charles W. Hemstreet, was born in the town of Carlisle, July 8, 1840; enlisted December 6, 1861. Was taken prisoner at Manassas Junction, but was afterwards exchanged and died in 1863 from typhoid fever, contracted during his imprisonment.

David Claus, private, 44th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; born in the town of Scriba, Oswego county, N. Y., in the year 1840. In the early part of the year 1862 he removed to the town of Seward, Schoharie County; enlisted September 10, 1862. He fought in all the battles in which the 44th was engaged until his death; he was mortally wounded at the battle of the Wilderness, May 8, 1864, and died at Fredericksburgh two days after.

William Eckerson, Jr., private, Company I, 44th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Canajoharie, Montgomery county, N. Y., June 28, 1834; enlisted October 9, 1861,

and passed through all the battles in which that regiment was engaged. Was wounded in the leg at the second battle of Bull Run and taken prisoner, but released again. Re-enlisted as a veteran December 28, 1863, and was killed while on picket at Cold Harbor, June 3, 1864.

Stanton Lane, private in the 102d Regiment, Van Buren's Light Infantry; born in the town of Canajoharie, Montgomery county, N. Y., from whence he removed to Sharon, and enlisted in October, 1861. Fought in the battles of Cedar Mountain, Chataill's, White Sulphur Springs and Antietam; was killed by a shell at the latter place.

Sylvanus Moyer, private, Company D, 115th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Sharon, August 27, 1815; enlisted August 4, 1861. He fought in the battles at Olista Station and Chesterfield Court House, and was struck by a minnie ball in the head and killed at the latter place.

Corporal John H. Hyney, of the 90th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Carlisle, in October, 1838; enlisted November 10, 1861. He fought in the battles of Savage Station and Fair Oaks, where he was wounded in the thigh by the bursting of a shell. He was afterwards engaged in the battles at Swift Creek, Drury's Bluff, Cold Harbor and Petersburg; was mortally wounded at the last named battle, and died August 15, 1864.

Robert N. Hurst, private, Company F, 61st Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; born in the town of New Scotland, Albany county, September 12, 1842, and removed to Carlisle, Schoharie County; enlisted September 12, 1861. He fought in the battle of Fair Oaks and before Richmond, and was run over at the latter place by a piece of artillery and killed.

Erastus Pickett, private, Company E, 175th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; born in Schoharie about the year 1820; enlisted in the summer of 1864. Fought at the battle of Cedar Creek, and died of fever at Winchester, Va., November 20, 1864.

Sergeant Samuel W. Fox, of Company E, 175th Regiment, was born in the town of Richmondville, May 21, 1831, and enlisted August 21, 1864. He participated in the battle of Cedar

Creek, and died at Winchester, Va., of typhoid fever, November 22, 1864.

Henry Bice, a private of the 91st Regiment, N. Y. Heavy Artillery, was born at Rensselaerville, Albany county, from whence he removed to Schoharie County, and enlisted in September, 1864. He fought at the battle of Hatch's Run, where he was wounded and afterwards died in the hospital at Washington, May 1, 1865.

Lieutenant Martin Wetbeck, of Company I, 51st Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born December 4, 1841, and enlisted from Schoharie October 7, 1861; about the 1st of January, 1864, was promoted to First Lieutenant. Fought at Newbern, Roanoke, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, South Mountain, Fredericksburgh and Petersburg; was taken prisoner and died at Danville prison, January 30, 1865.

Anthony Marshall, private, was born in 1810, and enlisted January 1, 1862; he died by disease at Armory Square Hospital, September 6, 1862.

Loren L. Little, private, of Company F, 61st Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols., was born in Charleston, Montgomery county, January 31, 1840, and removed to Sloansville, Schoharie County, and enlisted September 25, 1861; was offered a commission but declined and was killed at the battle of Fair Oaks.

John A. Archer, was a private in the 61st Regiment, N. Y. Vols., and born in Albany county, November 30, 1836; he removed to Sloansville, Schoharie County, and enlisted. Fought at the battles of Fair Oaks, Savage Station, Edsell's Hill, Antietam, Charlestown, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburgh, Gettysburgh, Hanover Court House, Bull Run, Cedar Mountain and Pine Plains, and many more, making thirty-one battles in all; was taken prisoner at Pine Plains, and died in a Rebel prison, August 25, 1864.

George A. Shafer, private, Company G, 91st Regiment, was born in the town of Wright, May 6, 1836, and enlisted November 11, 1861; he died by disease in Virginia, May 1, 1862.

John Relyea, a private of Company D, 91st Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in Carlisle, March 28, 1841, and enlisted in October, 1861; he died of typhoid fever at Key West, May 16, 1862.

Corporal Robert W. Gardener, of Company E, 44th Regiment, was born in the town of Seward, June 1st, 1831; he enlisted September 18, 1862, and fought at Fredericksburgh, 1st and 2d battles, Chancellorsville, Gettysburgh, Rappahannock Station, and the battle of the Wilderness. On the third day of the last named battle he was taken prisoner and died in Libby prison, in July, 1864.

Emery A. Shafer, was a private in the 44th, and born in the town of Seward, April 11, 1832; enlisted September 15, 1861 and died of jaundice at Philadelphia, in March, 1862.

Ephraim Mead, a private in the 90th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Jefferson, October 5, 1842, and enlisted September, 1864; he fought and was wounded at Cedar Creek and died in a Philadelphia hospital, May 5, 1865.

Simeon Funk, of the 34th Regiment, N. Y. Artillery, was born in the town of Wright, March 26, 1822; was drafted in the summer of 1869; fought in the battles before Petersburg, and died of dropsy at Harewood hospital, Washington, January 7, 1865.

Stephen P. White, private of Company B, 57th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in the town of Carlisle, August 16, 1840, and enlisted October 3, 1861. He died of disease at Camp California, Va., January 14, 1862.

Rufus Esmay, of the 44th Regiment, was a private of Company K, and was born in Seward, February 12, 1841. He fought through McClellan's peninsular campaign up to the siege of Yorktown. Here he was taken sick with typhoid fever and died May 1, 1862.

Corporal Theodore Guernsey, of Company G, 44th Regiment; was born in Cobleskill, October 12, 1833, and enlisted in September, 1861. Was killed by a bullet in the head at the battle of Hanover Court House, May 27, 1862.

Jeremiah D. Pitcher, a private of Battery C, N. Y. Artillery; was born in the town of Sharon in the year 1820, and enlisted September 16, 1864. He died of typhoid fever at Point Lookout, Md., February 22, 1865.

William Husted was a private in the 142d Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols., and born in the town of Carlisle, March 4, 1846. He enlisted August 20, 1864, and was wounded October 27, 1864,

at the fight on the Darbytown road, and died from the effects of the wound, November 15, 1864.

John M. Hillsinger was born in the town of Carlisle, and enlisted as a private of Company B, of the 5th Regiment, Iowa Infantry, and died of disease in hospital, at St. Louis, October 18, 1862.

James Bowie, private of 102d Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols.; was born in Scotland in 1842. In 1858 he came to Sharon to reside, and enlisted in the autumn of 1861. Fought in several battles and was killed by a shot from a rebel sharpshooter, just after the battle of Antietam.

Jacob Van Wagonen, was born in Columbia county, from whence he removed to Barnerville, N. Y., and enlisted January 4, 1864, as a private in the 7th N. Y. H. Artillery. Fought at the battles of the Wilderness and Cold Harbor. Was wounded at the latter place, and died from the effects of the wound, July 7, 1874.

George Salsbury, private, Company D, 91st Regiment, N. Y. Vols.; was born in the town of Wright in the year 1820 and enlisted in the autumn of 1861. He fought in several battles, and at the expiration of his term of enlistment re-enlisted as a veteran, and died of disease at Albany hospital, August 15, 1864.

Charles Brown was a private in the 91st Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols., was born in the town of Jefferson and enlisted in the fall of 1861. He died of disease at Key West, Florida, in 1864.

Harvey Brown, a brother, was a private of Company C, 134th Regiment, and born in the town of Jefferson; enlisted in September, 1862, and was killed at the battle of Gettysburgh.

Sovereign Brown, brother of the two preceding, was a private in Company G, of the 134th Regiment, and was born in the town of Jefferson. He enlisted in September, 1862, and died at Alexandria from the effects of a gunshot wound, in the summer of 1863.

Corporal William Shaver, of Company C, 177th Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols., was born in the town of Fulton, February 4, 1841, and enlisted October 14, 1862. He died in Louisiana of yellow fever, April 7, 1863.

Corporal Uriah Hallenbeck, of the 177th Regiment, was born in Albany County in 1835,

and removed to Fulton, Schoharie County, where he enlisted in November, 1862, and died in Cairo of cholera morbus.

Corporal Vinton Becker was born in the town of Sharon, February 9, 1844, and enlisted in the 69th Regiment, at Cherry Valley, in October, 1861, but was transferred to the 3d N. Y. Heavy Artillery, Battery M, and died of fever, April 29, 1862.

John H. VanWormer, private, 7th N. Y. Heavy Artillery, was born at Carlisle in 1841, and was wounded at Petersburg on the 27th of October, 1864, and died from the effects in the hospital.

Thomas Sees was a (colored) private in a white regiment organized in 1861. He was killed at the battle of South Mountain, Md.

Corporal G. Washington Tillapaugh was born in the town of Carlisle on the 3d of June, 1841, and enlisted in the 151st Regiment, N. Y. S. Vols., at Lockport in August, 1862. He was wounded in battle, and after the amputation of a limb, gangrene set in and he died the 21st of June, 1864.

Wm. H. McMillen was born in the town of New Scotland, Albany county, and removed to Carlisle, from whence he enlisted in Company C, 134th Regiment, September 8, 1862, and died near Fairfax with the fever. He went out with the regiment and participated in all engagements up to his death.

CHAPTER VI.

SCHOHARIE COUNTY CIVIL LIST.

JUDGES OF COMMON PLEAS—ASSISTANT JUDGES

—SESSION JUSTICES—SURROGATES—DISTRICT

ATTORNEYS—COUNTY CLERKS—SHERIFFS—

TREASURERS—SUPERINTENDENTS OF POOR—

SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS—LOAN COMMISSION-

ERS—EXCISE—INSPECTORS—GOVERNOR—

TREASURERS—ADJUTANT GENERAL—CANAL

COMMISSIONERS—CANAL APPRAISERS—CURA-

TOR OF STATE LIBRARY—LEGISLATURE—
SENATORS—CONGRESS—PRESIDENTIAL. ELEC-
TORS—CONSULS.

THE Court of Common Pleas was continued from the Colonial period, and under the first Constitution of the State the number of Judges and Assistant Justices in the various counties differed widely, in some there being as many as twelve of each. By an act passed March 29, 1818, the office of Assistant Justices was abolished and the number of Judges was limited to five, including the First Judge.

FIRST JUDGES.

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| William Beekman, | appointed | June 10, 1795. |
| John C. Wright, | do | April 18, 1833. |
| Charles Goodyear, | do | Febry 9, 1843. |
| Demosthenes Lawyer, | elected | November, 1847. |
| Lyman Sanford, | do | November, 1855. |
| William C. Lamont, | do | November, 1863. |
| Charles Holmes,* | do | November, 1871. |

ASSISTANT JUDGES.

The Assistant Judges received their appointment from the council of appointment, and we do not think they numbered at any time less than four or more than five. The council having such powers conferred upon them, selfish motives and partisanship led them to use it without stint. The volumes of appointments are almost numberless, and at one time being limited, we cannot give the date of the appointment but only the year in which they presided as given by court record:—

Adam B. Vroman, of Schoharie, John M. Brown, of Carlisle, David Sternbergh, of Broome, and Jonathan Danforth, of Middleburgh, were of the first bench, and received their appointment June 10, 1795.

Peter Swart, of Schoharie, 1795.

John Bauch, (Bouck), of Middleburgh, 1796.

Marcus Bellinger, of Middleburgh, 1796.

John Ries, of Schoharie, 1797; Peter Snyder, 1797.

Lawrence Lawyer, Jr., 1798; Henry Schaefer, 1798.

* Re-elected November, 1877.

Peter Vroman, Jun., 1799; Harmonus Bouck, 1799.

Joseph Borst, 1800.

Jesse Shepherd, 1804.

Olney Briggs, 1816; Henry Hager, 1816.

Isaac Hall Tiffany, 1820.

John Brewster, 1819; John Reynolds, 1819; Henry Becker, 1819.

Elias Holliday, 1820; N. P. Tyler, 1820.

Marvin Judd, 1823; Thomas P. Danforth, 1823.

William Mann, 1830.

Robert Eldridge, 1837.

Harvey Watson, 1838; John Westover, 1838.

Jonas Krum, 1840.

Martines Mattice, 1843.

Nathan T. Rosseter, 1845.

SESSION JUSTICES.

The Constitution of 1846 provided for the election of nearly all offices by the people. In the place of Assistant Judges, two Justices of the Peace were associated with the Judge to hold Courts of Sessions, with such criminal jurisdiction as the Legislature shall prescribe and perform such other duties as may be required by law. The associates are termed Session Justices.

Seymour Sornberger and Daniel McGarry, 1847.

Charles Watson and John E. Moore, 1850.

Hiram Sexton and John F. Shaver, 1851, and to fill vacancy, Henry P. Mattice.

Henry I. Moak, Hiram Sexton, Ralph Brewster,* 1852.

William H. Crowe, John S. Van Sternbergh, 1853.

Elish Case and Nathan Gallup, 1854.

Seymour Sornberger, Robert Crespen, 1856.

Henry Loucks, William E. Sprong, 1857.

F. P. Martin, Elisha Case, 1858.

G. G. Hynds, Tiffany Lawyer, 1859.

Lyman Baker, Tiffany Lawyer, 1860.

James R. Baldwin, John W. Gibbs, 1861.

Tiffany Lawyer, John W. Gibbs, 1862.

Jacob U. Zimmer, W. E. Sprong, 1863.

S. B. Richmond, Abraham Spickerman, 1864.

Freegift P. Martin, Alfred Isham, 1865.

James Swarthout, Alfred H. Isham, 1866.

Stephen J. Tyler, Seymour Sornberger, 1867.

Alfred H. Isham, S. J. Tyler, 1868.

Elish Case, John H. Mattice, 1869-'70.

James Swarthout, 1871.

S. Diefendorf, G. H. Furguson, 1872.

Asa Tinklepaugh, S. Diefendorf, 1873.

Philip Humphrey, O. D. Young, 1874.

William H. Brayman, C. A. Hinman, 1875.

E. Willard Bois, Aaron Stevens, 1876.

Gideon Kling, SpenserBurnett, 1877.

J. C. Smith, Spenser Burnett, 1878.

M. C. Teller, Edgar Akeley, 1879.

Spenser Burnett, J. C. Smith, 1880.

J. L. Beard, Edward L. Snyder, 1881.

SURROGATES.

*Under the first constitution, surrogates were appointed by the council for an unlimited period. By the second, they were appointed by the Governor and Senate for four years, and by the third the office was abolished in counties, not to exceed forty thousand population, and devolved its duties upon the County Judge.

Storm A. Becker, appointed June 10, 1795.

John Gebhard, do Feb. 26, 1811.

Storm A. Becker, do March 9, 1813.

John Gebhard, do Feb. 28, 1815.

William Mann, do Feb. 4, 1822.

Henry Hamilton, do March 2, 1832.

Thomas Smith, do March 26, 1840.

Demosthenes Lawyer, do March 26, 1844.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

By an act passed April 21, 1818, each county was erected into a separate district for the purpose of this office, and during the existence of the second constitution, it was filled by appointment of the Court of General Sessions in each county. By the law of 1846, the attorney is elected by the people. At present the salary is established by the board of supervisors, and is \$700.00.

Henry Hamilton, of Schoharie, appointed June 11, 1818.

David F. Sacia, of Middleburgh, appointed February 13, 1821.

*Appointed.

* Civil list.

Thomas Lawyer, of Cobleskill, appointed February 4, 1822.

Jacob Houck, Jun., of Schoharie, appointed October 11, 1831.

Robert McClellan, of Middleburgh, appointed June 7, 1836.

Benonai Spafford, of Middleburgh, appointed June 8, 1837.

William A. Sternbergh, of Middleburgh, appointed October 12, 1844.

Peter S. Danforth, of Middleburgh, appointed June 5, 1845.

William H. Engle, of Middleburgh, elected June, 1847.

Joseph Mackey, of Gilboa, elected November, 1850.

John B. Strain, of Richmondville, elected November, 1853.

Nathan P. Hinman, of Schoharie, elected November, 1856.

Stephen L. Mayham, of Blenheim, elected November, 1859.

William H. Young, of Cobleskill, elected November, 1862.

Henry C. Cook, of Richmondville, elected November, 1868.

Albert Baker, of Cobleskill, elected November, 1869.

William H. Baldwin, of Gilboa, elected November, 1874.

William E. Thorne, of Middleburgh, elected November 1877.

Alonzo B. Coons, of Sharon, elected November, 1880.

COUNTY CLERKS.

Besides keeping the County records, the clerk's duty is to act as clerk of the courts. Like nearly all other offices, under the first constitution this was filled by appointment and under the second by election. The official term is three years.

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Joachim G. Staats, | appointed | June 10, 1795. |
| Isaac Marcellus, | do | Dec. 31, 1801. |
| Wm. W. Enders, | do | July 6, 1815. |
| John Swart, | do | Mar. 27, 1819. |
| John D. Lawyer, | do | Feb. 13, 1821. |
| John D. Lawyer, | elected | Nov., 1822. |
| Alex. H. Marcellus, | do | Nov., 1825. |

| | | |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|
| John Gebhard, Jun., | elected | Nov., 1828. |
| Abraham A. Keyser, | do | Nov., 1834. |
| Wm. A. Hoton, | do | Nov., 1837. |
| Thomas McArthur, | do | Nov., 1840. |
| Stephen Mayhan, | do | Nov., 1846. |
| Loring Andrews, | do | Nov., 1849. |
| Almerin Gallup, | do | Nov., 1852. |
| John F. Shafer, | do | Nov., 1855. |
| Henry Kingsley, | do | Nov., 1861. |
| John H. Coons, | do | Nov., 1867. |
| John Morrison, | do | Nov., 1870. |
| Thomas Zeh, Jun., | do | Nov., 1873. |
| Wm. B. Murphy, | do | Nov., 1876. |
| Wm. B. Murphy, | do | Nov., 1879. |

SHERIFFS.

Under the first constitution, sheriffs were appointed annually by the "Council," and no person could hold the office for more than four successive years. He could hold no other office, and must be a free-holder in the county in which he was appointed. By the second the office became elective for the term of three years, ineligible to election for the next succeeding term.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Jacob Lawyer, Jun., | appointed | June 10, 1795. |
| Jackson Lawrence, | do | Feb. 23, 1796. |
| Jacob Mann, | do | Mar. 4, 1797. |
| Peter Vrooman, Jun., | do | Aug. 8, 1801. |
| Barent Vrooman, | do | Oct. 29, 1801. |
| Stephen Lawrence, | do | Feb. 5, 1805. |
| Gideon Wilber, | do | Feb. 24, 1808. |
| Peter Swart, Jun., | do | Feb. 16, 1810. |
| Stephen Lawrence, | do | Feb. 21, 1811. |
| Wm. C. Bouck, | do | Mar. 10, 1812. |
| Peter Swart, Jun., | do | Mar. 9, 1813. |
| Adam P. Becker, | do | April 18, 1814. |
| Abraham Keyser, Jun., | do | Feb. 28, 1815. |
| Giles H. Hubbard, | do | Feb. 9, 1819. |
| Constant Brown, | do | Feb. 12, 1821. |
| Constant Brown, | elected | Nov., 1822. |
| E. Van Horne, | do | Nov., 1825. |
| Jacob L. Lawyer, | do | Nov., 1828. |
| Peter Osterhout, | do | Nov., 1831. |
| Adam Mattice, | do | Nov., 1834. |
| Daniel Larkin, | do | Nov., 1837. |
| Cyrus Smith, (removed,) | do | Nov., 1840. |
| Henry Mann, Jr., | appointed | July 1, 1842. |
| John L. Brown, | elected | Nov., 1842. |
| Tobias Bouck, | do | Nov., 1845. |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Treat Durand, | elected | Nov., 1848. |
| John V. Stryker, | do | Nov., 1851. |
| David D. L. McCulloch, | do | Nov., 1854. |
| Frederick Rowley, | do | Nov., 1857. |
| John R. Moran, | do | Nov., 1860. |
| Peter W. Ferris, | do | Nov., 1863. |
| Thos. H. Knickerbocker, | do | Nov., 1866. |
| Jacob Angle, | do | Nov., 1869. |
| John F. Sawyer, | do | Nov., 1872. |
| Jehiel Brazee, | do | Nov., 1875. |
| Orson Root, | do | Nov., 1878. |
| Ezra Mitchell, | do | Nov., 1881. |

COUNTY TREASURERS.

Previous to 1846 the Treasurer was appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Since the expiration of the term of the officer then holding, it has been an elective one, the term being three years.

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Ralph Brewster, | elected | Nov., 1848. |
| David Becker, | do | Nov., 1854. |
| Peter S. Swart, | do | Nov., 1857. |
| John Pinder, | do | Nov., 1863. |
| James O. Williams, * | appointed | Oct., 1869. |
| James O. Williams, | elected | Nov., 1869. |
| John J. Dickinson, | do | Nov., 1875. |
| James O. Williams, † | appointed | Dec., 1879. |
| James O. Williams, | elected | Nov., 1880. |

SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE POOR.

By legislative act of 1827, the office of Superintendent was created and consisted of three in number, appointed yearly by the Board of Supervisors.

Previous to 1830, each town took charge of its own poor, and usually sold by auction, their support to the lowest bidder. In 1846 the office became elective. Term, three years.

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Harmonus Bouck, | appointed | Oct., 1830. |
| Ralph Manning, | do | Nov., 1830. |
| Jacob Crounse, | do | Oct., 1830. |
| Ralph Manning, | do | Oct., 1831. |
| Thomas Butler, | do | Oct., 1831. |
| Peter Osterhout, | do | Oct., 1831. |
| Thomas Butler, | do | Oct. 3, 1832. |
| Chester Laselle, | do | Oct. 3, 1832. |

* Vice Pinder.

† Vice Dickinson.

| | | |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| Ralph Manning, | appointed | Oct. 3, 1832. |
| John Van Gaasbeck, | do | Oct. 4, 1833. |
| Jacob Crounse, | do | Oct. 4, 1833. |
| Harvey Watson, | do | Oct. 14, 1834. |
| Harmon Becker, | do | Oct. 14, 1834. |
| William Dietz, | do | Oct. 14, 1834. |
| Harvey Watson, | do | Oct. 6, 1835. |
| Philip Mann, | do | Oct. 6, 1835. |
| Harvey Watson, | do | Oct. 5, 1835. |
| Hezekiah Manning, | do | Oct. 5, 1836. |
| Harmonus Vroman, | do | Oct. 2, 1838. |
| Hezekiah Manning, | do | Oct. 4, 1838. |
| Wm. I. Borst, | do | Oct. 4, 1838. |
| Hezekiah Manning, * | do | Oct. 1, 1839. |
| Wm. I. Borst, * | do | Oct. 1, 1839. |
| Harmonus Vroman, * | do | Oct. 1, 1839. |
| Wm. I. Borst, | do | Oct. 18, 1845. |
| Harmonus Vroman, | do | Oct. 18, 1845. |
| Marcy Sternbergh, | do | Oct. 12, 1846. |
| Charles Watson, | elected, | Nov. 17, 1848. |
| Orson Root, | do | Nov. 17, 1848. |
| Martin A. Watson, | appointed, | Jan. 3, 1849. |
| M. A. Watson, | elected, | Nov. 27, 1849. |
| Chas. Watson, | do | Nov. 3, 1850. |
| Wm. I. Borst, | do | Nov. 3, 1852. |
| Richard F. Noxen, | do | Nov., 1858. |
| David P. Stevens, | do | Nov., 1861. |
| Martin L. Borst, * | do | Nov., 1864. |
| D. C. Hager, | do | Nov., 1870. |
| David Zeh, | do | Nov., 1873. |
| John M. DeGraff, | do | Nov., 1876. |
| J. M. DeGraff, | do | Nov., 1879. |

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS.

By an Act passed April 17, 1843, the Board of Supervisors of the several counties were directed to appoint County Superintendents of Common Schools. In 1812 the office of State Superintendent was created and continued until 1821, when it was abolished, and the duties devolved upon the Secretary of State, who appointed a deputy to take charge of the department. The towns elected a Superintendent during the time, who reported the condition and progress of the schools to the County Clerk, who in turn, reported to the State Department. In 1841, Samuel S. Randall, the Deputy State Superintendent, whose interest in educational mat-

*Appointed and re-elected each subsequent term.

ters knows no bounds, in advance of the law of 1843, appointed County Superintendents. The law was made in accordance with his theory, excepting the Board of Supervisors made the appointments.

| | | |
|---------------------|------------|-------|
| Ezra Smith, | appointed, | 1841. |
| John H. Salisbury, | do | 1843. |
| Luther F. Hartwell, | do | 1845. |
| Bartholomew Becker, | do | 1847. |

Those officers reported direct to the State Department, after receiving those of the town commissioners. During Mr. Becker's term of office, March 13, 1847, the office was abolished, but the town commissioners remained, or continued, as by Act of 1843. In 1856 the system was changed, and County School Commissioners were created, and the first election, under the law, was held in November, 1857; the year previous the Board of Supervisors appointed. The County was divided into two districts—eastern and western.

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Nelson Rust, | appointed | Nov., 1856. |
| Reuben Shelmandine, | do | Nov., 1856. |
| Bartholomew Becker, | elected | Nov., 1857. |
| Augustus C. Smith, | do | Nov., 1857. |
| Bartholomew Becker, | do | Nov., 1860. |
| Augustus C. Smith, | do | Nov., 1860. |
| Bartholomew Becker, | do | Nov., 1863. |
| Augustus C. Smith, | do | Nov., 1863. |
| John VanVoriss, | do | Nov., 1866. |
| Ambrose R. Hunting, | do | Nov., 1866. |
| J. VanVoriss, | do | Nov., 1869. |
| A. R. Hunting, | do | Nov., 1869. |
| John VanSchaick, | do | Nov., 1872. |
| John S. Mayhan, | do | Nov., 1872. |
| John VanSchaick, | do | Nov., 1875. |
| John S. Mayhan, | do | Nov., 1875. |
| Wm. H. Albrow, | do | Nov., 1878. |
| Geo. D. Ostrom, | do | Nov., 1878. |
| Jacob H. Mann, | do | Nov., 1881. |
| Legrand VanTuyt, | do | Nov., 1881. |

LOAN COMMISSIONERS.

The office was created by an act passed the 14th of March, 1792, for the purpose of loaning United States' surplus moneys. The list is as perfect as can be obtained, and gives only the year the oath of office was taken:

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------|
| J. O'Brien, | oath taken, | 1831. |
| H. Manning, | do | 1831. |
| H. Manning, | do | 1833. |
| Jacob Becker, | do | 1833. |
| H. Manning, | do | 1835. |
| Jacob Becker, | do | 1835. |
| H. Manning, | do | 1838. |
| J. Becker, | do | 1838. |
| H. Manning, | do | 1843. |
| J. Becker, | do | 1843. |
| Robert F. Queal, | do | 1855. |
| John S. Frost, | do | 1855. |
| Jas. Parsons, | do | 1857. |
| G. B. Badgley, | do | 1857. |
| Jas. Parsons, | do | 1859. |
| G. B. Badgley, | do | 1859. |
| W. Dominic, | do | 1861. |
| R. Merchant, | do | 1861. |
| Sylvanus Sweet, | do | 1863. |
| John H. Walker, | do | 1865. |
| Sylvanus Sweet, | do | 1865. |
| M. Van B. Hager, | do | 1870. |
| Jas. A. Bouck, | do | 1870. |
| Albines Hess, | do | 1873. |
| Philip Deyo, | do | 1873. |

COMMISSIONERS OF EXCISE.

Commissioners of Excise were appointed by the County Judge and two associate Justices, and were to meet annually to grant licenses for selling liquors and keeping inns. The office was created April 16, 1857.

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-------|
| Seymour Boughton, | appointed | 1857. |
| Peter Hynds, | do | 1857. |
| Rassellas Ellis, | do | 1857. |
| Wm. S. Clark, | do | 1862. |
| Wm. Snyder, | do | 1862. |
| Ira Twitchell, | do | 1862. |
| Wm. Snyder, | do | 1866. |
| Merenes Frasier, | do | 1868. |

INSPECTORS OF TURNPIKE ROADS.

The duty of the Inspectors was to attend to complaints made against the condition of the turnpikes, with power to condemn either road or bridges and close toll-gates if the roads were not kept in order. In short, to compel the companies to act according to their charters. They were:—

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Henry Shafer, | 1827. |
| P. M. Snyder, | 1827. |
| David Lawton, | 1828. |
| Joseph Bouck, | 1828. |
| Ira Dewey, | 1829. |
| Henry Shafer, | 1829. |
| John D. Butler, | 1830. |
| Ira Dewey, | 1830. |
| John Stoll, | 1831. |
| William B. Wood, | 1831. |
| James D. Butler, | 1832. |
| Ira Dewey, | 1832. |
| S. Bortle, | 1833. |
| E. VanHorne, | 1833. |
| W. B. Wood, | 1833. |
| Olney Briggs, | 1833. |
| Martin Haman, | 1834. |
| Olney Briggs, | 1834. |
| W. B. Wood, | 1835. |
| S. Bortle, | 1835. |
| D. S. Howard, | 1836. |
| Jacob Feek, | 1836. |
| Jacob Feek, | 1837. |
| Ira Dewey, | 1837. |
| John B. Morehouse, | 1839. |
| Joseph Scofield, | 1839. |
| William Simpson, | 1840. |
| Peter Swart, Jr., | 1840. |
| Nicholas Russel, | 1841. |
| Stephen Badgley, | 1841. |
| Peter Z. Swart, | 1842. |
| Nicholas Russel, | 1842. |
| Ira Hullan, | 1843. |
| John F. Hiller, | 1844. |
| John Shaver, | 1845. |
| David Bergh, | 1845. |
| James Shaver, | 1846. |
| Munson Morehouse, | 1847. |
| Peter Swart, Jr., | 1847. |
| M. R. Boughton, | 1847. |
| O. Root, | 1848. |
| Jerome Dwelly, | 1848. |
| M. R. Boughton, | 1848. |
| John Badgley, | 1848. |
| John C. Moeller, | 1849. |
| Peter Z. Swart, | 1849. |
| Peter VanPatten, | 1850. |
| John V. Stryker, | 1850. |
| Fred B. Shaver, | 1850. |
| Stephen Merenes, | 1851. |

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Peter Z. Swart, | 1851. |
| James M. Hazzard, | 1851. |

PLANK ROAD INSPECTORS.

Their duties were similar to those of Turnpike Inspectors.

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Elijah H. Crawford, | 1850. |
| Peter W. Enders, | 1850. |
| James Plank, | 1851. |
| Peter W. Enders, | 1851. |

AUCTIONEERS.

Licensed by the County as by Act of April, 1826:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| George Lawrence, | July 1st, 1826. |
| do | do 1829. |
| do | do 1830. |
| do | do 1831. |
| do | do 1832. |
| do | do 1833. |
| Daniel Adams, | 1831. |
| James W. Mellan, | 1831. |
| Peter W. Enders, | 1837. |

STATE OFFICERS.

The following residents of Schoharie County have held positions in the State government:

Governor.—Wm. C. Bouck, elected November, 1842.

Treasurer.—Abraham Keyser, appointed, 1826 to 1838.

Adjutant-General.—Lyman Sanford, appointed, 1843.

Canal Commissioner.—Wm. C. Bouck, appointed, 1821 to 1841.

Canal Appraiser.—William Mann, appointed, 1836.

Regents of University.—John Keyes Paige, appointed, 1829; Wm. C. Bouck, appointed, 1845.

Delegates to Constitutional Conventions.—2d, 1821, Olney Briggs, Asa Starkweather, Jacob Sutherland; 3d, 1846, Wm. C. Bouck, John Gebhard, Jr.; 4th, 1868, Hobert Krum.

Curator of the State Cabinet.—John Gebhard, Jr., appointed June 5th, 1849 to 1856, re-appointed November, 1880.

Commissioner of Boundary Lines between New York and Connecticut, Jacob Vroman, appointed, August 21, 1859.

Legislature.—The County was represented by one member from its formation to the year 1802, when it was allowed two representatives to the year 1816. From the latter year to 1822, three. In 1823 the number was changed to two, and in 1858 it reverted again to one.

From the first to the eighteenth session (1777 to 1795) one member from Schoharie represented Albany as follows:—

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Peter Vroman, | 1777. |
| do | 1778. |
| do | 1779. |
| do | 1786. |
| do | 1787. |
| Isaac Vrooman, | 1779. |
| do | 1780. |
| do | 1781. |
| do | 1782. |
| Cornelius VanDyck, | 1788. |
| do | 1789. |

The members from Schoharie County alone were as follows:—

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| John Rice, | 1796. |
| do | 1797. |
| do | 1798. |
| Peter Swart, | 1798. |
| do | 1799. |
| Storm A. Becker, | 1800. |
| Joseph Borst, Jr., | 1800. |
| do | 1801. |
| Lawrence Lawyer, Jr., | 1802. |
| do | 1803. |
| Henry Becker, | 1803. |
| do | 1804. |
| do | 1805. |
| do | 1811. |
| Freegift Patchin, | 1804. |
| do | 1805. |
| do | 1820. |
| do | 1821. |
| do | 1822. |
| Henry Bellinger, | 1806. |
| Henry Shafer, | 1806. |
| do | 1807. |
| do | 1808. |
| Peter Swart, Jun., | 1807. |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Peter Swart, Jun., | 1808. |
| do | 1819. |
| do | 1820. |
| John Ingold, Jun., | 1809. |
| do | 1810. |
| Henry Hager, | 1811. |
| do | 1812. |
| John Redington, | 1812. |
| Heman Hickok, | 1812. |
| do | 1813. |
| do | 1820. |
| Peter A. Hilton, | 1812. |
| do | 1813. |
| do | 1816. |
| do | 1817. |
| William C. Bouck, | 1814. |
| do | 1815. |
| do | 1816. |
| do | 1818. |
| William Dietz, | 1813. |
| do | 1814. |
| do | 1815. |
| do | 1823. |
| Thomas Lawyer, | 1816. |
| Isaac Barber, | 1816. |
| do | 1817. |
| Aaron Hubbard, | 1816. |
| do | 1817. |
| do | 1819. |
| George H. Mann, | 1818. |
| Jedediah Miller, | 1819. |
| do | 1820. |
| do | 1832. |
| do | 1838. |
| Barnabas Eldredge, | 1820. |
| do | 1821. |
| Abraham Keyser, Jun., | 1820. |
| do | 1821. |
| do | 1822. |
| Harvey Watson, | 1822. |
| Marvin Judd, | 1824. |
| John Stryker, | 1824. |
| Joseph I. Borst, | 1825. |
| Freeman Stanton, | 1825. |
| Robert Eldredge, | 1826. |
| do | 1831. |
| Martinus Mattice, | 1826. |
| do | 1833. |
| Samuel Baldwin, | 1827. |
| William Mann, | 1827. |

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Henry Devereaux, | 1828. |
| James Sweetman, | 1828. |
| ✓Valentine Efner, | 1829. |
| Peter Hynds, | 1829. |
| Abraham L. Lawyer, | 1830. |
| do | 1831. |
| Charles Watson, | 1830. |
| Daniel Hager, Jun., | 1831. |
| Alexander Crookshanks, | 1832. |
| Jacob L. Lawyer, | 1833. |
| Watson Orr, | 1834. |
| John G. Young, | 1834. |
| John F. Hiller, | 1835. |
| Jonas Krum, | 1835. |
| Hiram Walden, | 1836. |
| Alvin Wilkins, | 1836. |
| Philip Mann, | 1837. |
| Reuben Merchant, | 1837. |
| Mitchell Sanford, | 1838. |
| Harvey Bliss, | 1839. |
| George F. Fox, | 1839. |
| Seymour Boughton, | 1840. |
| Charles Goodyear, | 1840. |
| Nicholas Beekman, | 1841. |
| Jacob C. Skillman, | 1841. |
| George Wright, | 1842. |
| William Fink, | 1842. |
| Abraham Richtmyer, | 1843. |
| John Osterhout, | 1843. |
| John Spickerman, | 1844. |
| Seth Eldredge, | 1844. |
| Henry Tibbits, | 1845. |
| Seymour Boughton, | 1845. |
| Thomas Lawyer, | 1846. |
| Thomas Smith, | 1846. |
| do | 1847. |
| Elisha Hammond, | 1847. |
| Adam Mattice, | 1848. |
| James Parsons, | 1848. |
| David B. Danforth, | 1849. |
| Austin Sexton, | 1849. |
| D. D. Dodge, | 1850. |
| John Avery, | 1850. |
| Lewis Rockwell, | 1851. |
| Abraham L. Lawyer, | 1851. |
| James Osterhout, | 1852. |
| Seymour Sornberger, | 1852. |
| Luman Reed, | 1853. |
| John Westover, | 1853. |
| Jacob J. Barton, | 1854. |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| James S. Wood, | 1854. |
| Joseph H. Ramsey, | 1855. |
| Wilkeson Willsey, | 1855. |
| John Lovett, | 1856. |
| Charles Holmes, | 1856. |
| Tobias Bouck, | 1857. |
| William H. Crowe, | 1857. |
| John H. Salisbury, | 1858. |
| William C. Lamont, | 1859. |
| do | 1862. |
| John W. Couchman, | 1860. |
| Joseph Buckbee, | 1861. |
| Stephen L. Mayham, | 1863. |
| Peter P. Schoolcraft, | 1864. |
| Edward Eldredge, | 1865. |
| Benjamin E. Smith, | 1866. |
| David Shaver,* | 1867. |
| William S. Clark,† | 1867. |
| do | 1868. |
| Peter R. Dyckman, | 1869. |
| Silas Sweet, | 1870. |
| do | 1871. |
| Peter Couchman, | 1872. |
| do | 1873. |
| John B. Hoag, | 1874. |
| John M. Roscoe, | 1875. |
| do | 1876. |
| James H. Brown, | 1877. |
| Charles Bouck, | 1878. |
| Duryea Beekman, | 1879. |
| R. Grant Havens, | 1880. |
| John J. Dominic, | 1881. |
| Edwin Hager, | 1882. |

SENATORS.

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| William Beekman, | 1798. |
| do | 1800. |
| do | 1801. |
| do | 1802. |
| George Tiffany, | 1803. |
| do | 1804. |
| do | 1805. |
| do | 1806. |
| Jacob Gebhard, | 1807. |
| do | 1808. |
| do | 1809. |
| do | 1810. |

*Died before taking seat.

† Fill vacancy of '67.

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Henry Hager, | 1813. |
| do | 1814. |
| do | 1815. |
| do | 1816. |
| Peter Swart, | 1817. |
| do | 1818. |
| do | 1819. |
| do | 1820. |
| William C. Bouck, | 1821. |
| do | 1822. |
| Jacob Sutherland, | 1823. |
| William Dietz, | 1830. |
| do | 1831. |
| do | 1832. |
| do | 1833. |
| Abraham L. Lawyer, | 1835. |
| do | 1836. |
| do | 1837. |
| do | 1838. |
| John C. Wright, | 1843. |
| do | 1844. |
| do | 1845. |
| do | 1846. |
| Sidney Tuttle, | 1850. |
| do | 1851. |
| Peter S. Danforth, | 1854. |
| do | 1855. |
| Joseph H. Ramsey, | 1856. |
| do | 1857. |
| do | 1860. |
| do | 1862. |
| do | 1863. |
| William C. Lamont, | 1875. |
| do | 1876. |
| do | 1877. |
| do | 1878. |

JUSTICE SUPREME COURT.

Peter S. Danforth, appointed September 24, 1872.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| Peter Swart, | elected | 1807-'09. |
| Alexander Boyd, | do | 1813-'15. |
| Thomas Lawyer, | do | 1817-'19. |
| John Gebhard, | do | 1821-'23. |
| William Dietz, | do | 1825-'27. |
| Peter I. Borst, | do | 1829-'31. |
| ✓ Valentine Efner, | do | 1835-'37. |

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| Robert McClellan, | elected | 1837-'39. |
| Jacob Houck, Jun., | do | 1841-'43. |
| Charles Goodyear, | do | 1845-'47. |
| do | do | 1865-'67. |
| Hiram Walden, | do | 1849-'51. |
| Stephen L. Mayham, | do | 1869-'71. |

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

Adam B. Vroman, appointed November 7, 1808, Madison's election.

Henry Becker, appointed November 8, 1816, Monroe's election.

Thomas Lawyer, appointed November, 1824, Adams' election.

William Dietz, elected November, 1832, Jackson's election.

Harvey Watson, elected November, 1840, Harrison's election.

Daniel Larkin, elected November, 1848, Taylor's election.

Minard Harder, elected November, 1872, Grant's election.

CONSULAR.

John F. Hazleton, Consul to Italy, 1877 to 1881.

COUNTY BAR.

William H. Albro was born in Huntersland, in the town of Middleburgh, September 8, 1840. After attending the district school he finished his education at Fort Edward Institute and Union College. He studied law in the office of William H. Engle, and upon being admitted to the bar he settled in Middleburgh village. In 1878 he received the nomination upon the Republican ticket for School Commissioner in the eastern district, and was elected by a flattering majority although the district was Democratic. Mr. Albro proved to be a faithful and judicious official in the discharge of his duties, and elevated the status of the schools under his charge.

As a lawyer he seems better adapted to the duties of a counselor and jurist than a pleader at the bar, as he lacks that confidence in self that is necessary to make a forcible and winning advocate. Mr. Albro is a well-read, sound and practical attorney, an unassuming and generous gentleman, and fully merits the confidence placed in him by a large circle of patrons.

Warren W. Allen has but just entered his professional course, having been admitted in May, 1881. Mr. Allen was born in the town of Summit on the 4th day of November, 1850, and received his education at the "New York Conference Seminary," and entered the office of John S. Pinder, in 1877. Mr. Allen's close application to his studies and quick perception, assures us of his earnestness and success in gaining the confidence of the people.

Nathan L. F. Bachman was born at Butler's plantation, the family residence, near Kingsport, Tenn., April 3, 1848, of German parentage. During the late war he participated in the "lost cause" and came to New York in 1867. He was graduated as A. M., from Hamilton College in 1872, and the following year located at Schoharie as principal of the academy. In 1876 he was graduated from the Columbia College Law School as LL.D., and again located at Schoharie. Mr. Bachman was elected as Justice of the Peace in 1876, and gives evidence of possessing judicial abilities to a marked degree. He is a fluent speaker, and has taken a lively interest in political affairs during each campaign as a Democratic speaker, drawing large audiences and awakening a deep interest. But few are better qualified for official positions than the subject of this sketch.

Ralph Brewster has practiced law since 1839, and is the oldest member of the County bar. He is a lineal descendant of Elder William Brewster, who landed at Plymouth from the Mayflower in 1620, and was born in Berne, Albany county, N. Y., May 31, 1814. After receiving an academic education at Jefferson Academy, Clinton Institute, and Fairfield Academy, he entered Hamilton & Goodyear's law office, and was admitted to the bar as before stated in 1839. He located in Schoharie village in 1841, and was appointed County Treasurer by the Board of Supervisors in the fall of that year and each subsequent term until the Constitution of 1846 took effect, making the office an elective one. He was then elected (1848) as the first Treasurer chosen by the people direct, and held the office two terms, making a period of thirteen years in which he held the position and the confidence of the

people in his ability and integrity. He also held the office of Inspector of Common Schools four years, Inspector of Election four years, Justice of the Peace twenty years, and Supervisor four terms, bestowed upon him, the duties of which he performed with such precision and profit to the people as to rank among the best officials of the country. As a lawyer, Mr. Brewster is very careful, and has drawn around him a large circle of clients engaged in the conveyance and settlement of estates, for which his ability seems peculiarly adapted. Not possessing oratorical powers or the gift of easy public speaking, it is seldom he is found in argument before the courts, but in council is considered one of the best in the County, and no one is sought more by the troubled than Mr. Brewster.

Cornelius L. Bailey was born in the town of Jefferson, in 1837, and attended the Jefferson Academy. He read law with Jacob Houck, Jun., and Nathan P. Hinman, of the firm of Houck & Hinman, at Schoharie C. H., and was admitted to practice in 1858. His practice has been in Schoharie and Albany counties and has been lucrative up to the year 1880, when he was appointed Deputy County Clerk, under Wm. B. Murphy.

Mr. Bailey is a careful business man, well-read, and has a clear conception of the principles of law, and has been successful in his pleadings.

Albert Baker, at present a resident of Cobleskill village, was born in the town of Berne, Albany county, in October, 1845. He attended the district school of the neighborhood and taught a few years, when he entered the office of Folman & Bigham, of Albany City. He was admitted to the bar in 1866, and settled at Cobleskill. There being an opening at Sharon Springs he removed there in 1868, but soon after again removed to Cobleskill. Mr. Baker has held the office of Police Justice of the corporation, and also District Attorney of the County from 1871 to 1874, and is at present Secretary of the Board of Education of Cobleskill. In 1876 he formed a co-partnership with his brother under the name of "Baker Bros.," and the firm enjoys a lucrative business that promises a successful future.

Merritt A. Baker was born in the town of Berne, Albany county, on the 28th of February, 1855, and after attending the district school of the place entered Nassau Academy and Starkey Seminary, and in 1872 read law in the office of his brother, Albert. He was admitted in January, 1876, and immediately formed a co-partnership with his brother. In the fall of the latter year he was elected by the Board of Supervisors as clerk, and has held the position since, much to the satisfaction of that body and to the credit of their records.

Wm. H. Baldwin, of Gilboa, was born in Greenville, Greene county, in 1835. His parents soon after settled in the town of Conesville. After attending the district school of the neighborhood he entered the Union Academy, of Harpersfield, Delaware county, where he finished a course of practical studies and entered the office of Mattice & Winans, of Durham, to study law, which course he completed in "Adams' office," Gloversville, in the summer of 1855. In the latter part of that year he was admitted, and located in Gilboa village. Mr. Baldwin is a careful and practical worker, and has won the confidence of the public through his honorable advocacy of law. That confidence was fully demonstrated in 1874, when the people elected him to the office of District Attorney, which position he filled with marked ability and promptness as a faithful guardian of law and order.

Lawrence W. Baxter was born in the town of Sharon on the 12th of January, 1852. His educational advantages were diligently improved to prepare himself for the bar. At an early age he attended the Clinton Liberal Institute, and graduated at the head of his class, with the first prize in oratory as a trophy of the event. He then entered Hamilton College, from which he graduated with distinguished honors in 1879, and again in 1880, from the Law School of that institution. Mr. Baxter located at Cobleskill where he is now practicing, and meets with a very flattering success. He is earnest in the profession he has chosen, careful in the execution of its requirements and honorable in his practice. He is a fluent speaker and ingenious reasoner, which, coupled

with his known integrity in principle, places him in the front rank of the young members of the bar and gives us an assurance of his future success.

William S. Clark was the son of William Clark, a farmer of Carlisle, and was born in that town the 19th of August, 1826. He attended the district school until his fifteenth year, when he entered the Esperance Academy, from whence he went to Schoharie, and finally to Hamilton Academy, Madison county. Mr. Clark entered the Law School at Poughkeepsie, and afterwards the Law department at Union College, from which he was graduated as LL.D., and was admitted to practice in the State courts in February, 1858, and to the U. S. Court in 1864.

Upon the decease of Hon. David Shafer, in 1866, Mr. Clark was appointed to fill his place in the Assembly and was elected to that body the year following. He has held but few public positions, and to them he has brought honor and dignity as a scholar, gentleman, and honest man.

Upon the election of Wm. B. Murphy as County Clerk, Mr. Clark was honored as Clerk of the Courts, and has acted in that capacity at each subsequent session.

Added to his superior educational qualities, but few men possess that genuine spirit of kindness towards others that is daily shown by him, and which has gained for him the friendship of all.

Alonzo B. Coons was born in the town of Canajoharie, Montgomery county, on the 3d of September, 1841. After mastering the common English branches in the school of the neighborhood he entered Ames Academy and afterward the New York Conference Seminary, of Charlotteville.

In the spring of 1861, he commenced reading law in the office of J. H. Salisbury, at Sharon Springs, finished his studies in the office of L. H. Jackson, and was admitted to practice in May, 1863. He did not open an office until May of 1868, as he engaged in teaching school in which he was successful. During the latter year he located at Sharon Springs and was elected District Attorney in November, 1880,

which official trust he fills with dignity and proves a faithful guardian of law and order.

Peter S. Danforth was born in the village of Middleburgh in 1816, and studied law in the office of George Danforth, his father, and that of Marcus T. Reynolds, of Albany. He was admitted to the bar in May, 1840. Mr. Danforth has always possessed the confidence of his townsmen and held many official positions within their gift, chief among which was school commissioner—the first political position of his life. He was appointed Master and Examiner in Chancery in 1844, and elected District Attorney in 1845, and to the State Senate in 1854.

Upon the death of Henry Hogeboom, Judge of the Supreme Court, Mr. Danforth was appointed by Governor Hoffman to fill the vacancy. Beside the political and legal cares that Judge Danforth has had pressed upon him, he has taken a deep interest in religious affairs, and at present is the president of the County Bible Society, filling the position satisfactorily to the society, that his father-in-law, Rev. George A. Lintner, so long occupied. He has also been identified with the County Sabbath School Association since its organization. Mr. Danforth is a careful lawyer, fluent speaker and politic reasoner.

George S. Danforth is a son of Hon. Peter S. Danforth, and was born in the village of Middleburgh on the 19th of July, 1844. He attended the village school and Schoharie Academy to master the elementary branches, and to prepare for college studied two years under John M. Scribner, Jr. He entered Rutgers College, from which he was graduated in 1863, and immediately commenced the study of law in earnest in his father's office. However, he had been a student with that aim from his youth. He was admitted in 1865 and located in his father's office.

Mr. Danforth is yet young in the profession, and brought to it a finished education and pride that carries him above low bickerings and the abuse of the true principles of law in employing them for such purposes. His success thus far has been very flattering as an attorney and counselor, and by the brotherhood he is held in

high esteem for his gentlemanly bearing and as a genial, earnest co-worker.

William H. Engle was born in the town of Berne, Albany county, on the 23d of January, 1817. His educational advantages were mostly of the common schools, having attended the Knox Academy but a short time. He entered the office of Benoni Spafford, of Middleburgh, in 1840, and finished his studies in the office of J. J. Warner, of Berne, in 1844, when he was admitted. He settled at Middleburgh (where he still resides) upon the death of Lawyer Spafford in 1845.

In November, 1847, he was elected District Attorney, it being the only county office he has filled, from the fact that Mr. Engle's political sentiments are contrary to those of the majority of county electors. However, his fellow partisans have repeatedly honored him with nominations for various positions, and been successful in making a "lively run." He received the appointment of deputy collector in the second division of the 14th U. S. Revenue district in April, 1868, and held the same to the year 1871. Upon the removal of Mr. Hazleton (who succeeded him) to Europe as Consul in 1878, Mr. Engle was again appointed to the position and still holds the same, making a thorough, careful and prompt official.

He enjoys the confidence of a large community in the settling of estates, and intricate cases arising from land grants and divisions for which his talents seem adapted. Having a partner in the office the firm is Engle & Stevens.

Henry C. Getter was born in Middleburgh on the 16th of June, 1855, and received a common school education. He entered the law office of Sanford & Thorne, in 1878, to qualify himself for the bar to which he was admitted in the spring of 1881. Having just started in the legal course, it is hard to determine his future success. Possessing an active mind and being well tutored in the mazes of the law, it but requires a close application to business and study to warrant a brilliant future.

George H. Hiller, of Cobleskill, is a son of the late ex-Assemblyman John F. Hiller, of Sharon, and was born in that town on the 13th of October, 1844. He attended the district

school only and entered the office of the late William H. Young in 1872, and afterwards that of his brother-in-law, John S. Pindar.

Mr. Hiller was admitted to the bar in January, 1876, and established at once a reputation as an earnest student and reliable advocate, with a just aspiration to become proficient in his calling.

He is reserved and unassuming, a careful worker and logical reasoner, and we can but predict for him a successful career, as his increasing practice ensures the fact. Mr. Hiller was elected to the office of Justice of the Peace in 1876 and again in 1880.

Chauncey W. Hinman, of Schoharie village, son of the late John Hinman, was born in Middleburgh, June 4, 1834. He received his education at the district school and upon the formation of the 134th Regiment of N. Y. S. V., he enlisted as Second Lieutenant and was soon promoted to First. He was in all the engagements in which the regiment participated up to the retreat of Hood, when he was taken prisoner and thrust in Andersonville prison. There he subsisted upon the scanty fare of one-fourth of a pint of corn meal and the same measure of beans, daily, with the exception of an occasional "mite" obtained from the guards or fellow-prisoners by bartering with small buckets which his ingenuity allowed him to manufacture with an old case-knife. After six months confinement, the war closed and Mr. Hinman was the last of several thousand, discharged from the prison field. Weak and emaciated he returned to his home unfit for laborious duties and entered his brother's law office in 1866, from which he was admitted to practice in 1868. He formed a co-partnership with his brother which was broken upon Nathan P. removing to Albany City in 1872. Mr. Hinman is a well read and practical lawyer with a sagacious perception of technical points, with which he ingeniously outflanks his adversaries, and makes his practice a success. His "briefs" are drawn with care and precision denoting deep searching, earnestness and practical principles of law.

Hon. Charles Holmes, was born in the town of Fulton, on the 26th day of March, 1826. He early attended the district school, and completed

his studies at the time-honored Jefferson Academy. As many other young men of the country, struggling to gain an education, without the means to obtain it, he taught school and engaged in other employment to bear the necessary expenses, and became self-sustaining. In 1850 he entered the law office of the late Judge Lawyer, and was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1853, and located in the village of Cobleskill.

The Democracy of the County elected him to the Assembly in the fall of 1855, where he bent his energies in behalf of the Susquehanna Railroad, and gave such promise of a legislator, that he was chosen as the party nominee for State Senator in 1858, against Joseph H. Ramsey, but the district being anti-democratic, his opponent was elected, but by a largely reduced majority. After his defeat, Mr. Holmes applied himself strictly to his profession, and gained as high status before the legal tribunals as any lawyer in Central New York. Upon the retirement of his townsman, Wm. C. Lamont, from the County Judgeship, in 1871, Mr. Holmes was elected to that position by an overwhelming majority, and re-elected in the fall of '78. The precision and ability with which he performed the duties of the office, have placed him among the ablest jurists, and gained for him the reputation of being a practical, just and substantial defender of the law.

In the performance of his duties as Surrogate, no better satisfaction has been given than by Judge Holmes, in the settlement of estates, protection of orphans, and watchful care over others, whose affairs have been brought before him for adjustment.

Being an active and influential Democrat of the Jeffersonian school, he was placed upon the Democratic State Committee, by the Convention of 1881, and proves a sagacious politician.

Lewis C. Holmes, second son of Hon. Charles Holmes, was born in Cobleskill, in November, 1848, and was educated at the village school and studied law with his father. He was admitted to the bar in September, 1879. Upon the election of the father as Surrogate, Lewis was appointed Surrogate's Clerk, which position he still holds creditably to himself and faithful to the office. Mr. Holmes possesses a well

balanced mind and promises to make an unassuming, methodical and substantial lawyer, that will win the confidence of all classes and add dignity to the profession.

Charles H. Holmes is the third son of Hon. Charles Holmes, and was born in the village of Cobleskill, December 25, 1852, and received his education at the "Cobleskill Union School." He studied law in his father's office and was admitted in May, 1879, and located at Cobleskill. But just starting in his legal course, being chiefly engaged in office work, it is hardly possible to predict the mark Mr. Holmes will make in the legal race. If quick perception and gift of language will warrant success before the bar, it will be soon gained, as few are his equal even among those of more mature age and greater experience. By a strict application of his natural genius to argument and studious confidence of language, Mr. Holmes may stand as the "Harry Clay" of the young legal gentlemen of Schoharie.

Lyman Sanford Holmes is a son of Hon. Charles Holmes, and was born in Cobleskill in January, 1856. He attended the village school and prepared himself for Union College, from which he was graduated in 1878. After studying law in his father's office for a while he completed his studies in that of Bemis & Benton, of Hornellsville, N. Y., in November, 1880. He located in Chicago and soon after in New York City, but an opening being made in the office of Sanford & Thorne, of Middleburgh, by the decease of the former, Mr. Holmes formed a connection with Mr. Thorne in the spring of 1882. But few young men become more attached to their profession than Mr. Holmes, and possessing a quick perception of the principles of jurisprudence and a steady judgment which, coupled with his nobler attributes of manhood that win friends among all classes, we cannot but predict a successful future for him.

John I. Jackson, of Gilboa, was born at Cairo, Greene county, N. Y., August 30, 1815, and settled with his parents in Gilboa, Schoharie County, in 1823. He received a common school education and was early elected Justice of the Peace, which office he held fourteen

years. During this official period he studied law in his own office and practiced in the Justice court until the 4th of September, 1855, when he was admitted to the Supreme bar. Mr. Jackson represented the town upon the board of Supervisors in 1866, and enjoys the confidence of a large community as a counselor and man of honor.

L. H. Jackson, of Sharon Springs, was born in the town of Summit, on the 4th of April, 1836, and attended the New York Conference Seminary of that town. After a classical course, he attended Prof. Fowler's law school at Poughkeepsie, two years, and then entered the law office of John H. Salisbury, in the fall of 1861, and was admitted in May of the following year. He located at the Spa, and continued in practice to the year 1879, when he removed to Binghamton, where he resided until April, 1881. Since that date, Mr. Jackson has again located at the Springs, where he meets with the old-time confidence that his earnest and diligent labors gained in the first years of his profession. He was appointed postmaster, in 1861, and held the position until his removal to Binghamton, when he resigned.

Krum & Grant.—Hobart Krum, son of the late Judge Jonas Krum, and John B. Grant, a native of Blenheim, comprise the firm of Krum & Grant.

Hobart Krum stands at the head of the County bar. If nature ever makes a choice for a particular avocation, Mr. Krum was indeed chosen for the bar, as he is especially gifted with such abilities and pride as are necessary to make the profession a success. He has been from his first entrance into the law office the most studious in the principles of law, looking critically into the reason of every principle and their application to causes. While he makes no pretension to oratory, yet as a pleader he is successful and highly interesting. He places himself squarely upon equity, through ingenious reasoning, and arranges the facts of the case in the order of their legal value, and then arouses such earnestness as to be pleasing and forcibly effective, and if not to win the contest, leave a dubious impression as to the justness of the verdict. Mr. Krum was chosen as a delegate to

the State Constitutional Convention of 1867, and was one of the leaders of that body of able men. He proved himself to be also a student of political economy in all its branches, as his able arguments show, which gave him pre-eminence as a legislator, and to the citizens of the County a pride in their representative. Mr. Grant, although comparatively a young man, with a tireless industry, shrewd perception and a mind well versed in jurisprudence, adds much to the firm's popularity, which has spread over many counties, and ensures a lucrative success that but few country firms attain.

Wm. C. Lamont.—It is seldom we find in the rushing, jostling throng of legal aspirants, so unassuming a man that has made a more prominent and pleasing mark, than the subject of this sketch. Mr. Lamont was born in Charlotteville, on the 25th of November, 1827, and obtained a practical education at the time-honored academies at Schoharie and Jefferson, from whence he entered the law office of Abraham Becker, of South Worcester, Otsego Co.

Being admitted to practice in due course of time, he settled at his native village, and by assiduous industry, he established a reputation as a careful and successful lawyer.

In 1859, he was elected to the Assembly, and served upon the judiciary committee, and made, as usual, a very creditable record. His energies were bent in behalf of the bill then pending for State aid in the construction of the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad, and his arguments in that issue were marked with plain, forcible reasoning, and awoke a brighter hope for the passage of the bill, and final consummation of the enterprise. His practice becoming more extended, he removed to Richmondville, and in the fall of 1863, was elected County Judge, which office he held to January, 1872. Removing to Cobleskill village, his legal business increased, and he became one of the leaders of the County bar. In 1875 he was elected to the State Senate, and served upon the following committees:—Roads and Bridges, Erection and Division of Towns and Counties, also Manufacture. Whatever position Mr. Lamont has filled, his labors have been earnest to perform his duties faithfully and profitably to his constituents.

Watson Lamont, is a brother of ex-Judge Lamont, and was born in the town of Middleburgh, on the 13th of July, 1852. He received his educational advantages at the "New York Conference" and "Starkey" seminaries and settled at Cobleskill village in 1869. In November, 1871, he entered the office of his brother and received his certificate to practice in the State Courts in January, 1876. He has held the office of police justice two years and is now acting upon the second term of town justice of the peace. Mr. Lamont's close application to study and quick perception of legal points and technicalities have earned for him a business that bids fair to increase with his years and place him in the front rank of his profession.

John H. Mattice was the son of Zachariah Mattice, of Middleburgh, and was born April 1, 1839. He attended the district school and fitted himself for teaching, which he followed for seven years when he learned the shoemaker's trade, and studied law at his boarding place nights and while working on the bench. Through a long, but earnest period of study, he was admitted to the bar on the 9th of December, 1869, and settled at Livingstonville, where he enjoys a lucrative practice.

Mr. Mattice is a self-made man, having been forced to work his way through life, unaided, except by an untiring will. He represented the town upon the Board of Supervisors in 1877, creditably to himself and profitably to the people. But few men possess the love of study as does Mr. Mattice, and where labor is not spared in the application of knowledge obtained, pleasing results will inevitably follow. The industry, earnestness and ambition of the subject of this sketch, can but lead us to predict for him a bright and prosperous future.

Stephen L. Mayham was born in the town of Blenheim, on the 8th of October, 1825, and after attending the district school of the neighborhood he studiously prepared himself for teaching, the avails of which were judiciously applied for an academic education. Following the natural bent of his mind, he entered the office of Love & Frear, of Ithaca, there studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1848. He located at North Blenheim village, and after a few years

formed a connection with lawyer George Dier, under the name of Mayham & Dier. While here Mr. Mayham gained a fine practice, and solidified the confidence of his boyhood neighbors and friends in his honesty as a man and ability as a lawyer, which placed him high in their estimation, where he still stands. Four times he was representative in the Board of Supervisors, and was honored by the people of the County with the election of District Attorney in 1859, and that of Assemblyman in 1863. Removing to Schoharie C. H. in 1865, his practice became extended and he soon formed a co-partnership with Hobart Krum, under the name of Krum & Mayham, which connection made the most impregnable firm in Central New York, and was so considered by the courts. Upon Mr. Mayham's son being admitted, the firm of Krum & Mayham was dissolved, and one was formed by the father and son as S. L. & F. M. Mayham, as now existing. Mr. Mayham's popularity and ability drew the choice of the Congressional Convention of 1869 to the nomination of him to the Forty-first Congress, which was ratified by the people in a large majority for the district, which comprised Albany and Schoharie counties. He served upon the Committee of Expenditures of the State Department, that of the District of Columbia, and that of sub-committee of the whole, in the Forty-fifth Congress, to which he was elected by a flattering majority of the electors of Schoharie, Greene and Ulster counties in the fall of 1874, to which position a re-election was proffered by the latter counties, but Mr. Mayham's declination for the opportunities of others, retired him from Congressional duties in 1879. He identified himself with the educational interests of Schoharie upon his removal there, and is one of the leading props of the time-honored Schoharie Academy, as well as all other local and public enterprises. Mr. Mayham is a bold, yet not forward or hazardous advocate and a practical thinker, and one whose appearance upon the rostrum at once demands the respect and confidence of his auditors, while his fluency, and plain, unpretending language impress without weariness.

F. L. Mayham is a son of Stephen L. May-

ham, and was born in North Blenheim on the 21st of August, 1850. Acquiring the first rudiments of a practical education at that village school, he entered the Roxbury Academy and finished an academic course at Schoharie. He commenced reading law in the office of Mayham & Krum in 1868, and was admitted September 5, 1871, and shortly after the dissolution of the firm of Mayham & Krum occurred when that of S. L. & F. M. Mayham was formed, and is a leading one of the County. Mr. Mayham is a well-read young lawyer, having taken hold of the task with a natural taste, and in counsel proves that the deep principles of jurisprudence have been his study, which are ingeniously brought to practice in his briefs and pleadings without being marred with irrelevancy and sarcasm.

John S. Pindar, now of Cobleskill, was born in the town of Sharon in 1835. After attending the district school he entered the "Richmondville Literary Institute" in 1853, and upon the closing of the school returned to the farm. In 1862 he entered the law office of Ramsey & Young, and was admitted to the State courts in 1865, and that of the United States in 1872. Mr. Pindar has practiced continually since 1867, and was the first Police Justice in the corporation of Cobleskill. He was chosen chairman of the Democratic County Committee in 1877, and still holds that position creditably to himself and satisfactorily to the party. Mr. Pindar is known as one of the hardest legal workers in the County which has gained for him a successful business.

O. C. Stevens, the subject of this sketch, is a native of Greenville, Greene county, and was born on the 30th of August, 1850. He early attended the Greenville Academy and closed his educational advantages at Hamilton College, but not as a graduate. In 1869 he entered the law office of Sanford & Thorne, and was admitted in the spring of 1872. He formed a connection with William E. Leet, then District Attorney of Greene county, which continued about two years, when he withdrew and became a partner of his father-in-law, Wm. H. Engle, with whom he is at the present time. Mr. Stevens is a well-read professional and

genial gentleman, and possesses the confidence of those with whom he mingles as a most honorable and earnest worker.

E. L. Snyder, of Richmondville, is a graduate of Union College of the class of 1861, and was born in Columbia county, N. Y., on the 19th of June, 1839. Mr. Snyder studied law with M. H. Dorr, of Hillsdale, Columbia county, and was admitted to the bar at Albany, May 5, 1864. He located at Richmondville, and as a mark of the confidence the people have in his ability and integrity they elected him to the office of Justice of the Peace in the spring of 1881. His superior education, gentlemanly bearing and studious application to business, have drawn around him a host of friends, and given to him a very flattering practice.

Frank Snyder was born in the village of Middleburgh on the 13th of January, 1855. His educational advantages were of the village school and at the Wainwright Institute. He studied law in the office of Peter S. Danforth, and was admitted as counselor in 1878, and as attorney and counselor in the year following. By the request of his legal tutor he located in his office, and the success with which he meets in legal business is highly creditable to himself as a lawyer and the office from which he was admitted.

Wilfred P. Thomas was born in Albany, N. Y., March 24, 1856, and fitted himself for college at the Schoharie Academy. He graduated from Union College in 1872, and that year entered the law office of Mayham & Krum from which he entered that of James F. Crawford, of Cohoes, N. Y., and finished his studies. He was admitted in April, 1876, and located at Schoharie village, where he is now in practice in company with Chauncey W. Hinman. Mr. Thomas has worked up a flattering practice, and coming to the profession with a fine education and a desire to succeed, he can but be successful.

Wm. E. Thorne was born at Athens, Greene county, on the 21st of July, 1840. He attended the district school and Knox Academy, and afterwards studied mathematics and the languages with Dr. Charles Abrams, of Hyndsville.

After teaching school a few years, he entered the law office of S. L. Mayham, then of Blenheim, (1863) and removed with that gentleman to Schoharie in the spring of 1865, and was admitted in December of that year.

On the 1st day of January, 1866, he formed a co-partnership with Lyman Sanford, of Middleburgh, which continued until the decease of that gentleman. In 1877, he was elected District Attorney and proved an able official. The firm's business was extensive, especially as relates to the settlement of estates, for which no firm enjoyed a better, and but few an equal, reputation.

John Van Schaick was born in the town of Sharon, on the 29th day of July, 1840. After an elementary course in the district school he attended Williams College. Like most farmer's sons that are ambitious to obtain an education, he did so by teaching school a portion of the year. He studied in the office of John H. Salisbury while located at Sharon Springs, and afterwards in that of Wm. H. Youngs, and after passing a course at the Albany law school he was admitted in 1864. Counselor Van Schaick was elected to the office of School Commissioner in the second district in 1871, and re-elected in 1874. He established an office at Cobleskill after his admittance, where he still continues and receives his share of the public patronage in legal affairs.

Le Grand Van Tuyl is a young man who has but just stepped upon the legal path and his future honor or disgrace depend upon the bent of his moral qualities and not his intellectual, as of the latter, nature has blessed him exceedingly, which he has wisely chosen to direct and support him through his legal adventure. May he prove one with firm stability of purpose. He is the son of Isaac Van Tuyl, of Schoharie, and was born in that town on the 9th of April, 1857. He received a thorough Academic education at the Schoharie academy and entered the law office of Krum & Grant, from which he was admitted in January, 1881. He was elected School Commissioner of the second district in the fall of 1881 without opposition, and located in the village of North Blenheim.

Moses S. Wilcox, of Jefferson village, is a native of Harpersfield, Delaware county, and was born in that town in March, 1836, and received an academic education at the Harpersfield Academy, from which he emerged as a school teacher. For two years while thus employed he read law and entered the office of Abraham Becker, of South Worcester in 1858, and was admitted in May, 1860. In the fall of that year he formed a co-partnership with Robert Parker, and located at Delhi, and remained so connected until 1865 when he returned to his father's farm, and spent two years in agricultural pursuits.

At the expiration of that time, he located at Jefferson, where he still resides and enjoys a flattering practice through his earnest and practical labors, and the confidence of the people in his ability and integrity.

Regardless of his legal taste, we find Mr. Wilcox interests himself in agriculture and the breeding of superior stock for which he has become noted among the practical farmers of the country. Mr. Wilcox is well read, and keeps up with the times, and does not, as is too often the case, after a few years practice, settle down to fogysim without an effort to advance. He is an easy and plain speaker, sound and apt reasoner, which, coupled with his honest fervency, holds attention in his arguments, and gives a pleasing satisfaction to his listeners.

Isaac W. Winne.—Mr. Winne was born in the town of Sharon, March 29, 1834, and is the son of Francis Winne, whose father moved from Albany county and settled in the town of Cherry Valley, in the fore part of the century. After attending the district school, he entered the "Ames Academy" from which he returned to the homestead and engaged in agricultural pursuits, until the spring of 1871, when he commenced studying law in the office of Albert Baker, then located at Sharon Springs. Mr. Winne was admitted to practice in June, 1875, and at once located at Rockville, where he still remains, enjoying a flattering practice.

CHAPTER VII.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF GILBOA.

TOWN FORMED—FIRST TOWN OFFICERS—BOARD OF INSPECTORS—DIVISION INTO DISTRICTS—TOWN MEETING OF 1849—ANTI-RENT DIFFICULTIES—SHERIFF'S POSSE OF SOLDIERS—FIRST SETTLERS AND MILLS—JOHN DISE—ARCHIBALD CROSWELL—TANNERY—TUTTLE & OSBORNE TANNERY—GRIST MILL PURCHASED BY PLATT, POTTER & CO—COTTON FACTORY—LUMAN REED—JOHN REED—FIRST TAVERN—GILBOA BRIDGE—FURNACE—CHURCHES—MERCHANTS—BROOME CENTRE—HENRY TIBBETTS—MCKEYS CORNERS—DAVID ELLERSON—HIS NARRATIVE—OFFICIAL LIST—SUPERVISORS—DISTRICT ATTORNEY—COUNTY CLERK—ASSEMBLY—STATE SENATOR—BOUNDARIES.

BLLENHEIM and Broome were two very large towns, making it inconvenient, in various ways, and to remedy the evils, the people petitioned to the Seventy-first Legislature to divide the territory, and form a new town. Adam Mattice, of Livingstonville, and James Parson, of Sharon, were in the Assembly, to whom the petition was entrusted, and through whose labors a bill to that effect was passed, on the 16th of March, 1848. Broome, previous to that date, bordered on the west, on the Schoharie creek, while Blenheim took in all the territory of Gilboa, that lies upon the west of that stream. Gilboa village had for a long time been an extensive manufacturing seat and business center, and being the main and only village upon the territory, the town was named after it.

First Town Meeting.—On the 20th day of April following the organization of the town, the first town meeting was held, and elected the following officers:—

For Supervisor, Colby Reed; Town Clerk, Paige Crosswell; Justices, Samuel More, David E. Chichester, Hiram Fridenburgh and John

Chichester; Assessors, Elisha Griffin, for one year, Philo Johnson, two years, and John Hoagland, three years; Commissioners of Highways, Archibald Crosswell, one year, David S. Howard, two years, and Ransom Allerson, three years; Overseers of Poor, Benj. E. Smith, and Nicholas L. Mattice; Collector, Elam Richmond; Constables, Lewis T. Davis, Solomon D. Mackey, Jacob McIntyre, and Reynolds Allen; Town Superintendent of Schools, Joseph Schofield, for full term, and vacancy; Sealer of Weights and Measures, Abram Mudge. Town house at Lawrence & Kibbes.

The first Board of Inspectors appointed for the town meeting, was Luman Reed, James G. Hackey and Hiram Fridenburgh. It was voted at that meeting to raise three hundred dollars for the support of the poor. On the 13th of May following, the road commissioner and clerk appointed sixty-nine overseers for that number of road districts then created.

In September the assessors divided the town into three election districts, pursuant to the statute, as follows:—

“District number one consists of all that part of the town of Gilboa lying west of a line commencing at the south line of the town and running thence north along the west line of Lot No. 5, occupied by John V. Hoagland, thence north to the east line of the lot owned by Peter Mattice, lately occupied by William Stevens, thence north along the east line of said lot, and north to the north line of the town.”

“District number two consists of the central part of the town, bounded on the west by the eastern bounds of District number one, on the south by the south line of the town, thence northeast along the line between the towns of Gilboa and Conesville to the line between School Districts No. 2 and 3, thence west along the line between said school districts to the end of said line, thence in a direct line to the corner of the east and south lines of Clark's patent, thence along the south line of Clark's patent to the Schoharie creek, thence along the north line of the town of Gilboa to the place of beginning.”

“District number three consists of all that part

of the town of Gilboa lying north of District number three as described above.”

At the town meeting held the 20th of February, 1849, no choice of Supervisor was made, owing to the two candidates, Luman Reed and Henry Tibbetts running a tie. Elisha Griffin was appointed to fill the vacancy. The political sentiments of the people of this town are so nearly equally divided that it requires strategy upon the part of the candidates to gain an election.

The Anti-Rent troubles of the '40's were experienced in this section to an alarming extent, but no real serious collision between the opponents took place, with the exception of the “Injuns” overtaking a deputy while on his way to serve the papers upon a belligerent tenant. He was a citizen of the village and respected, but without ceremony was taken upon the hill west of the bridge, and threatened with a tar and feather garment if he would not promise not to serve the papers. He did so and was liberated. In conversation with a gentleman of the place who freely admitted he was a “big Injun” through those times, we learn that nearly all the people of this locality were Anti's, and were not organized with any real intention of defying the law and creating a rebellion, but more to make pretensions and frighten the landlords. “If,” said our informant, “we had any such intentions, we had plenty of opportunities even to kill as well as tar and feather, and not be caught. Many of us joined for fun, being young and venturesome, and we had plenty of it too.”

Political aspirants took advantage of the troubles and did much towards the “blowing of the flames” which made unusual lively political canvasses. Sheriff Brown's posse of soldiers lay at this village for some time and was here, while that officer and deputy were upon Baldwin's Heights in the hands of the Anti's. They were one hundred in number, “armed to the teeth,” and looked, our informant tells us, “ferocious enough to eat a biled Injun for each breakfast;” but said he, “when the boys gave war-whoops in the night through the streets and upon the hills, the soldiers hugged their guns and looked tame.”

First Settlers and Mills.—Who were the first settlers of this town is unknown for a certainty but supposed to be the Dise family about the year 1760. After their losses as stated in the Conesville chapter of this work, they settled upon the Plattenkill, and John Dise, a son of one of the partners, located near the present iron bridge. He built a grist-mill some time between the years 1790 and 1800, near where Luman Reed's present grist-mill now stands. As the country became quiet and prosperous in the beginning of the century the well watered hills and fine mill privileges attracted the attention of the Yankees of New England and drew to this place men of energy and ingenuity that soon laid the foundation for a manufacturing town.

Among the number was *Archibald Croswell*, a very active man, such as every town requires, to create and push enterprises that give employment and add to the production of the country. He came from Connecticut and settled where Luman Reed's residence now stands, about the year 1800. He purchased the Dise mill property and soon rebuilt a stone structure for the same purpose, which stood for several years when the walls cracked and fell, obliging him to again rebuild. The second time he placed the mill above the present bridge. In 1821 Mr. Croswell built a fulling mill upon the west side of the river which was changed to a store and a new mill of larger capacity built below. In 1810 Jonas Soper commenced a tannery which did a fair business. The quantity of hemlock bark that was accessible at a trifling cost led Mr. Croswell to build a factory to extract from the bark the tanning qualities found therein, which he shipped in large quantities to Europe. Requiring a vast number of barrels he immediately started a cooperage which not only furnished himself with necessary shipping barrels, but the surrounding country with every thing it required in that line. In the year 1831 the extract factory was burned, and having a large quantity of bark on hand Mr. Croswell built a tannery. About the same time another was erected by Tuttle & Osborne, which soon was owned and managed by Sidney Tuttle & Sons. Besides the grist-mill, fulling-mill, cooperage, store and extract establishment, all in operation at one time, that gentleman built a

pottery, manufactured potash, managed a saw-mill, giving employment to numberless workmen, but he became financially entangled and made an assignment to his brother, Dr. Croswell, of Catskill, and — Brace, who continued the different branches of business for a while and then closed. If it were possible to make the people believe it would be to the interest of the country for them to hold such business men up when they get in close financial quarters, instead of pouncing upon them as vultures, it would be to their best interests. With such a business man as Mr. Croswell, Gilboa with her unsurpassed water privileges might soon be made the largest manufacturing center in Central New York and number thousands of inhabitants.

Mr. Croswell after an active life passed away, leaving five children, Paige, John Keyes, Able Brace, Mrs. Wm. Wicks and Kellogg, the latter the only one remaining in the place. Platt, Potter & Co., of Schenectady purchased the grist-mill above the bridge of Croswell & Brace, and became owners of other valuable property at this place.

Cotton Factory.—About the year 1840, a company was formed with a capital of \$50,000, called the "Gilboa Cotton Mill Co." for the purpose of building a cotton mill. Sidney Tuttle was at the head of the concern as President, and it became a prosperous establishment, with one hundred looms, employing about eighty hands.

B. G. Morss and Luman Reed became the owners, and while in their possession, the flood of October, 1869, destroyed the whole, entailing a heavy loss. Thus we find to-day the most active business interests that have adorned this romantic spot, have ceased to exist, have passed away as many of those whose brains were the grand motive power.

Luman Reed, one of the busy men of "years gone by" still remains, and is still identified with the enterprises of the place. In 1879 he built the present grist-mill but a short distance from the site of the first one, which he continues to manage, together with a general assortment of merchandise, the latter in connection with A. H. Bartley. Mr. Reed is a son of

Colby Reed, who removed from Vermont in 1806, and commenced a small "store" at Strykersville, and removed to "Blenheim Hill," or South Gilboa where he continued the business about thirty years, when he retired from business and was followed by his son Philetus Reed. He died in 1860 at the age of eighty, highly respected as a citizen and business man. Luman Reed has been elected as Supervisor of the town eleven terms and from the eastern assembly district in the Legislature in 1853 as a colleague of Hon. John Westover, of Richmondville. From the fact Mr. Reed's political principles being adverse to the majority of the voters of the County, his election to that position is evidence of his popularity as a social and business man.

John Reed, a brother was for many years an active business man of the town and held several local offices, and was supervisor five terms. He is at present a resident of Syracuse engaged in the insurance business.

First Tavern.—The first "tavern" or hotel built in the place was to the west of the present "Gilboa House." It was built against the bank, the stone basement of which still stands. It was built about the year 1797, and was a small affair conducted by Wm. Edwards. When the Catskill & Ithaca turnpike was built bringing travel, additions were put on from time to time, until it was at least seventy-five feet long. Here the first pioneers assembled to talk matters over and indulge in toddy and flip, and built air castles upon "the thousand hills" from which they might look down upon the land-holders with contempt.

Gilboa Bridge.—Upon the advent of Archibald Crosswell a trestle bridge was built across the creek which was carried away by high water and replaced by a lattice one when the turnpike was built, that was also carried away in October, 1869, and the present iron structure, the finest one in the County, took its place at a cost of nearly thirteen thousand dollars.

Furnace.—A. H. Jackson built the first furnace in 1832, which was in operation a few years and closed, and succeeded by the present one in 1876, built by M. Gilberts & Co.

CHURCHES—Reformed Church of Gilboa.—Upon the fly-leaf of the records of this church we find written in a bold hand:—

"Record of the Baptisms, marriages and members of the church of Schoharie Kill under the ministerial labors of the Rev. Cornelius D. Schermerhorn, which labors he discontinued in the year 1813. May the Great King of his church supply this flock with the regular administration of his word and ordinances."

Below the above we find recorded:—

"This is to certify that the Rev. Winslow Paige, A. M., V. D. M., became the pastor of the united congregation of the Reformed Dutch Church in the towns of Broome, Windham and Blenheim, on the 1st day of April, 1820."

As near as can be ascertained the organization was effected about 1802, at which time Rev. Schermerhorn commenced his pastoral care. The society built an edifice nearly three miles to the east, in the present town of Conesville, about the year 1805 or 1806, and becoming old and needing repairs, and this village being then in its growing glory, the society resolved to remove it to Gilboa village, which was done in the year 1836. The church for many years was known as the "Church of Dise's Manor," and "Manor Church," for reasons stated in the Conesville chapter.

This organization has always been a popular one, comprising the best citizens and attendance, and has maintained a very prominent list of pastors. Rev. Winslow Paige has been followed by Cornelius Bogardus, 1838 to 1843; L. H. Van Dyck, 1843 to 1852; Samuel Lockwood, 1852 to 1854; R. B. Welsh, 1854 to 1856; William G. E. See, 1857 to 1861; W. W. Letson, 1865 to 1868; William S. Moore, 1869 to 1873; J. A. Ball, 1874 to 1876; Edward Cornet, 1876 to 1880; B. C. Miller, present supply.

Rev. Winslow Paige was in charge seventeen years and retired from the ministry. His children, J. Keyes, Alonzo, and Mrs. Judge Potter, became eminent personages.

The former was appointed as a Regent of the University the 31st of March, 1829, and held the office until his death, which occurred in 1858.

He removed from this County to Albany where he was elected Mayor of the city in 1845. Alonzo was elected Judge of the Supreme Court in the Fourth District, in 1847 and 1855, and was honored as one of the purest minded and most competent Judges upon the bench. Mrs. Potter's free heart and other christian graces endeared her to a large circle of friends, especially the unfortunate, who have been the recipients of her charity.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Gilboa.—The records of this class were not to be found upon our several visits for them. Mr. J. M. Hazzard, however, informed us that a class was here as early as 1842, and thinks it was formed about that year, and that the edifice was commenced in 1844 and completed in 1845. The pulpit has been supplied by circuit preachers under the orders of the New York Conference. The society is prosperous and energetic in the religious cause, not sparing time or labor in its furtherance.

Flat Creek Baptist Church.—Rev. John Ormsbee with thirteen members organized this society on the 2d of January, 1831. They held their meetings in private houses for several years and built a house of worship in 1843. The present commodious structure was erected in 1865 at a cost of \$3,300.

Merchants of Gilboa Village.—Through Mr. Hazzard and Luman Reed we find that Samuel Bortles and Archibald Croswell commenced the mercantile business together about the year 1823 and were followed by Ozias Stevens in 1828, and Allen H. Jackson in 1832. The year after, S. Tuttle & Sons established and did a fine business up to the year 1850, and were contemporary with Platt, Potter & Co. in the first years of business, and with Luman Reed from 1840. The present merchants are Reed & Baldwin, F. A. Haggidorn, Freidenburgh & Thomas and James M. Hazzard.

BROOME CENTRE.

This place was first settled by Job Tibbetts whose son, Henry Tibbetts, possessed an ambition similar to Archibald Croswell to drive business. Upon the building of the road from

Potter's Hollow to Gilboa (1850) Henry Tibbetts built the present hotel and storehouse and for several years did a large business. Being the builder of the hamlet, it was called for a long time as "Tibbetts," and, in fact, is known only as such by residents within a few miles. Being belated in reaching the place upon our first visit, to a late hour in the night, we became fearful of not being upon the right road, and awoke three farmers to learn the truth of our situation. Upon asking for Broome Centre and its distance we were told that the road "ran to Tibbetts," but did not remember how far it was to Broome Centre. The third call brought a live lass of eleven summers to our aid, who gave the desired information with intelligence and grace. Henry Tibbetts was an active man. He was elected to the Legislature in 1845, and to the Board of Supervisors in 1860, in which positions he served with commendable credit to himself and the County. He died in March, 1877. The early settlers of this locality were Elisha Griffin, Calvin Case and the Chichester family.

But a short distance from Mackey's Corners, upon the farm of David Elerson, lies, in a neglected grave, one of Schoharie's adopted sons, who braved the hardships peculiar to the struggle along the border for freedom.

David Elerson was a comrade of Timothy Murphy, Richard Tufts, John Wilber and Lieutenant Boyd, who came to Schoharie after the battle of Monmouth, under Colonel Butler, as before stated. When he settled here the territory was in the town of Broome, but by the division of 1848 it belongs to Gilboa. Some time toward the close of the patriot's life, some writer, unknown to us, published a pamphlet in which is recorded a few of the hero's exploits, said to be dictated by himself. It was entitled, "The Extraordinary Feats and Escapes of David Elerson in the Revolutionary war." In justice to the patriot we herewith copy the article, hoping that its perusal may excite the reader to a deeper sense of the purchase price of American liberty, and present another example of true fidelity to country worthy to imitate and noble to honor.

"This veteran of the Revolution now lives in Broome, Schoharie County, on the Plattenkill,

and is a respectful and valuable citizen, a member of the Baptist church, on which account we rely on his statements as being true. These the publisher received from his own lips, and are now for the first time offered to the public.

"Elerson is a Virginian by birth, whose exterior appearance although far advanced in years, denotes that in the prime of his youth strength nerved his arm; and the kindling of his eye at the recital of the sanguinary tale evinced the deep hold the Revolution has still of his affections; as well as that he possessed the decision of character necessary for the prompt achievement of fearful deeds.

"He states that he entered in service in 1776, under Colonel Morgan, the well-known 'old Wagoner' as the British called him; and that in 1778, he was in the Monmouth battle, in the State of New Jersey, but escaped unhurt. He was also with Lord Dunmore in his war with the Indians in Virginia, where he received a dangerous wound from a shot of the enemy, the bullet entering at the top of his right shoulder, came out at his left breast, the scar of which is dismal to look at. It happened as follows:—A body of Indians had hidden themselves behind a fallen tree which had been blown down by the winds, over which they were shooting with horrible effect among the soldiers of Dunmore. Elerson being of a daring spirit determined at the risk of his life, to oust them if possible, from this skulking place. In order to do this he dropped down upon the ground, with his rifle in his hand, and crept on his belly towards the roots of a tree, which was loaded with earth cleaving to its roots, behind which he intended to secrete himself, in order to get a shot or two through the opening of the roots at the savages shrouded by its trunk. This he effected, notwithstanding before he reached the spot, a ball, which was probably a random shot, struck him on the shoulder as already stated. A few days after the battle of Monmouth, Colonel Morgan with a detachment of two or three companies of his riflemen, followed the retreating army of General Clinton as far as Middleton, where the British had halted a short time. At this place Elerson requested of Morgan for himself and three others, by name Murphy, (the same who was afterwards so fatal to the Indians in old Scho-

harie,) Wilber and Tufts, liberty to follow on after them towards Sandy Hook, where the army of Clinton was supposed to be in the act of crossing over to Staten Island. The request was granted, but not without an earnest charge by Morgan to take care of themselves. They had gone but a little way on the route when they came to a deserted house and stopped to look about and reconnoiter the premises. Elerson said to his companions that if they would remain at the house and keep a good look out, he would would go a little distance where there were some horses belonging to the British and examine them. He did so; but on his return his companions were all missing. On passing a little farther he found the road parted two ways; he took one and pursued it, hoping to overtake them, as he supposed they were gone in one of these roads, but he had taken the wrong one and missed them. In a few minutes, however, he came within sight of the operations of Clinton's army, and found they had effected a safe landing on Staten Island by making a bridge of boats, and that the British fleet lay before him. There was nothing remaining which they had not carried over except forty or fifty horses and a number of wagons; but among the mass of baggage and lumber of war, he discovered a coach or phaeton, which he supposed belonged to General Clinton.

"Now it flashed across his mind that he would make a prize of this phaeton, and a pair of horses to draw it with, although he perceived it was under the protection of two sentinels. He now darted out of the road, under the cover of the thick foliage which grew along the shore, in this way secreting himself from the view of the sentinels, till within about twenty yards of them, when he shouted to them to surrender in a moment, or they were dead men, at the same time bringing his rifle to his face, ready to guide a bullet through the heart of one at least. At sight of his dreadful instrument, one of the sentinels let fall his gun into the water, from mere fright, as he stood exactly on the edge of the beach. On seeing this he felt assured that his gun was incapacitated to do him harm, as its charge was now wet. The other man, on seeing what had happened, plunged into the water with his horse, but the current of the tides proved

too strong and soon forced him to return. By this time he had taken the other sentinel into custody, and ordered him forthwith to harness a good pair of horses as was among them, to the phaeton, or he would shoot him, on which account the command went speedily into execution. Now the other sentinel made rapidly towards him, till within a short distance, then wheeled abruptly off, riding quite around the wagons, coach and all, which maneuver was supposed a mere preamble, till a convenient moment might be seized upon to shoot Elerson, as the trooper appeared to make several sly attempts to draw a pistol from a side pocket, situated in his bosom. All this time he had been warned to go quite away, or give himself up, unless he wished to be shot; but he either did not understand, or did not fear the threats of Elerson, notwithstanding his rifle was leveled constantly at him, he continued to evince a determination to try his pistol. Our hero did not like to fire upon him, on his own account, as the report would certainly arouse the attention of the whole British army and fleet, which were in full view, and their cannon was what he dreaded. However the sentinel persisted, and when in the very act of drawing the pistol from his pocket, received the blazing bullet of Elerson through his presumptuous heart; he tumbled headlong to the earth, and struggled out his life on the sand. The sharp, shrill report of the rifle echoed up and down the shores of the channel and struck the ear of some artilleryman, who, ere he was aware of it, planted a cannon shot near his feet, but fortunately did not injure him. In a moment or two a flash admonished him he had better dodge, as another pelt must be on its way; this passed over him, and struck between two wagons, and settled in the ground, as it was a sandy soil.

"By this time the vehicle was ready, when he sprang into it, and rode away, coach, prisoner and all, amid the roar of old England's blazes, which had no power to touch the intrepid Virginian, whose day's work amounted to several hundred dollars. Two companies of Morgan's riflemen were now sent to the westward, as far as Albany, in which Elerson and his three companions, above named, were included under the command of Captain Long. From Albany they

were sent to Schoharie, where the Indians and Tories were devastating, murdering and carrying off, in concert, captives to Canada. Here they joined Colonel Butler of the Pennsylvania line, as rangers. The first service on which they were sent, was to take, dead or alive, a person strongly suspected of Toryism, living on the Charlotte river, by the name of Service, who was not only Torified in principle, but was an active agent of the British in aiding, victualing, and secreting the enemies of the Revolution. While prosecuting their way through the woods, when not far from the place now called Gilboa, a doleful region of gulfs and precipices, lying along on either side of the Schoharie creek, towards its head, they surprised, and took prisoner, a man who, on examination, was found in possession of a letter from a Captain Smith, who was a Tory, to the very man on the Charlotte, whom they had started in pursuit of, namely Service. This Smith had raised his company about Catskill and along the North River, and was then on his way to Niagara, and had sent this man forward to apprise the Tory that he must be in readiness to furnish his men with such refreshments as he could, and to aid them with provisions for the journey. They now altered their course, being determined, if possible to fall in with, and cut to pieces, this Smith and his company, enquiring of the prisoner what way they would probably come, who from fear dare not deceive him.

"They now hastened up the stream as secretly as possible, and had come to the flats where the bridge now crosses the Schoharie, on the Patankonia road. Elerson and his fellow-riflemen were on the east side of the creek, where from a certain spot, they discovered the party on the opposite side of the flat. Elerson and his captain happened to be close together, when they dropped on their knees behind a tree, the rest of the company might probably have made some noise by treading on dry brush, which it is likely Smith might have heard, as he came out in an open space, looking here and there, wholly exposing his person, when Captain Long and Elerson both aimed their rifles at his breast. A flash, a groan, and he weltered in his blood, a victim of that justice which watched over the fortunes of the Revolution.

"Several of the party were now wounded, the

rest fled in consternation to their houses. Thus were the machinations of a deluded set of men dissipated by the untiring vigilance of a small band of our patriotic forefathers. This work finished, Captain Long and his men changed their course for the Charlotte, in pursuance of their first intention, where they arrived and silently surrounded the house of the person sought for, gathering closer and closer, till at length two or three entered the room where he was, before they were discovered. He instantly stepped out of the door with them, when he was informed that they had orders to take him to the forts at Schoharie. He appeared somewhat alarmed, while he strenuously objected to the proposal, pleading innocence, etc., but in the meanwhile was evidently working his way along from the door to a heap of chips lying between Elerson and Murphy. The reason now appeared why he had so cautiously approached the chips, for on coming to the spot, he seized in a moment a broad-ax, which lay there, and made a desperate stroke at Murphy, which, however, he eluded, as the keen eye of that veteran was not asleep, but the fruitless attempt rolled back in vengeance on its author, as a bullet from the rifle of Murphy stretched him a lifeless corpse, with the ax in his hand.

"The next year, in the month of July, Long's riflemen had orders to move under Colonel Butler, in connection with other troops, in all amounting to seven hundred, to Springfield, at the head of Otsego lake, where they were to await the arrival of General Geo. Clinton and the troops expected with him, all of which, when there concentrated, were to pass down the Susquehanna, to form a junction with General Sullivan at Tioga point. The object of this arrangement was a destruction of the Indian tribes on the Chemung and Genesee rivers; who had so often been employed in small parties by the policy of the British, to distress, in a predatory manner, the inhabitants of the frontiers; the leader of whom was generally Tayadanaga or, the Brant. Now, whilst the troops were stationed at Springfield, Elerson on a certain day, thought he would go to a place where he had observed a quantity of mustard growing around a deserted old house, a small clearing having been made at this spot a year or two before, his object being to gather a

dinner of herbs for himself and men. The place was distant from the camp about a mile, where he had been busily employed till his haversack was nearly half full. Round about this house the weeds and sprouts had grown thick and high. As he was stooping to gather the mustard, he thought he heard a rustling in the weeds behind him, when, looking around, he saw ten or a dozen Indians just ready to spring upon him, and take him prisoner. That they chose to take him prisoner, rather than shoot him, he inferred from their not having done it, as the most ample opportunity had been afforded. The nearness of the fort might have deterred them, or they may have wanted him alive as a victim of torture. As he sprang to seize his rifle, which stood against the house, their hatchets were hurled sufficiently swift and numerous to have cut him to pieces, if they had all hit him; however, he sustained no injury, except the middle finger of one hand, which was nearly cut off.

"He secured his rifle and sprang off in the opposite direction with the speed of an arrow, leaving his haversack and greens behind. There lay between him and the woods an open space of ground which was thickly covered with sprouts and weeds, having once been cleared; through this he had to run before he could reach the woods. On coming to the edge of this open space, he found his way obstructed by a hedge fence made of fallen trees, into which he plunged, struggling and leaping to get through; at this awful moment he heard behind him a full volley of their rifles discharged at the same instant; bullets whizzed and pattered about him, among the old timber and trees, yet he escaped unhurt. It was about eleven o'clock of the forenoon; he now had the start of the Indians, as they had yet to load their rifles and to scale the hedge fence; having cleared all obstacles, he plunged into the woods straight forward, not knowing whither he was running. From eleven to three he had not slackened his pace more than compelled to do by the situation of the ground over which he had run, when he perceived himself headed by an Indian. He stopped and drew up his rifle to shoot him, but he had disappeared, when, before his rifle was taken from his eye, a bullet from another direction had pierced his side, which proved

however only a flesh wound, as it passed just above the hip joint, between the cuticle and peritoneum, coming out near the spine. He was now convinced that he was surrounded, though by an invisible enemy. Again he renewed his flight, till coming directly to the brow of a mountain, he descended it like a chased deer, but on reaching its foot found there a small brook, which in crossing, he scooped with his hand a little water to his mouth, as his tongue was bloated and hung out from excessive heat and thirst. As he tasted the water he cast his eyes behind him, when he perceived an Indian alone, just breaking over the brow of the hill, in full spring after him; he now darted out of the brook and up a shallow bank, hiding himself behind the dark shade of a monstrous hemlock.

"Now, as a fair opportunity offered to shoot this Indian, he raised his rifle, but found it impossible to take aim, as he shook very much from fatigue, perturbation of mind, and the anguish and bleeding of his wounds.

"But dropping flat down he rested his piece on the root of the tree, having now no doubt but the moment he touched the trigger of his unerring rifle, the enemy would finish his course. So it turned out. He fired; the Indian reeled and fell, tumbling headlong on the side of the declivity. He now reloaded; returned the ramrod to its slide, and primed the faithful rifle, when at that instant the whole company of his pursuers burst over the hill, true to the scent; but on coming where their expiring fellow weltered in his blood, a yell, horrible as shrill, tore the air, reverberating among the dense forest, in sign, as their custom is, of the presence of death. It was the death yell. He now gave up all as lost, as his pursuers were so near, but had calculated to fetch to the ground one or two more before they should seize him, but as he perceived they still lingered about their dying comrade, a thought crossed his mind that *one* struggle more and he might possibly escape. Again he sprang off; but soon encountered the brook, whose dark, winding course overhung with a dense grove of low hemlock, offered a sure retreat, as also his tracks were lost in the oblivious waters. Having followed this stream some small distance he sprang into the thicket

of hemlocks, where, finding a hollow tree which was fallen down, he crept into it, where he lay secure, as the Indians pursued him no further; being it is likely, terrified at the death of their chief runner and warrior. Sleep soon overpowered him in his dreary bed, from which he awoke not till the next morning. When he backed out of the log he found it rained, and added to this, which greatly augmented the horror of his situation, he *was lost*. Here he remained two days and nights in the tree, without food or dressing for his wounds, as the weather did not clear up; and besides he feared the Indians might still be lurking about. But on the third day from that on which the Indians surprised him, the sun rose clear, when he was able to shape his course, and came out at Brown's Mills, in Cobleskill, a distance from where he had lodged in the hollow tree, of only about three miles, having run from where he was gathering herbs at least twenty-five miles, from eleven in the morning till he entered the log pursued by a band of savages, who thirsted for his blood and to make his body a subject of torture.

OFFICIAL.

SUPERVISORS.

- 1848—Colby Reed.
- 1849—Elisha Griffin.
- 1850—Hiram Freidenburgh.
- 1851—Paige Croswell.
- 1852—David E. Chichester.
- 1853—Solomon Mackey.
- 1854—R. W. Ruliffson.
- 1855—John Reed.
- 1856— do
- 1857— do
- 1858— do
- 1859— do
- 1860—Henry Tibbetts.
- 1861—David E. Chichester.
- 1862— do
- 1863—Luman Reed.
- 1864—Washington Mackey.
- 1865—John I. Jackson.
- 1866—Washington Mackey.
- 1867—Luman Reed.
- 1868— do

- 1869—Luman Reed.
 1870— do
 1871— do
 1872— do
 1873— do
 1874— do
 1875— do
 1876— do
 1877—A. Hagadorn.
 1878—Addison H. Bartley.
 1879— do
 1880—Andrew G. Baldwin.
 1881— do
 1882—A. Hagadorn.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

- 1874—Wm. H. Baldwin.

COUNTY CLERK.

- 1846—Stephen Mayhan.

ASSEMBLY.

- 1853—Luman Reed.
 1866—Benjamin E. Smith.

STATE SENATE.

- 1850—Sidney Tuttle.
 1851— do

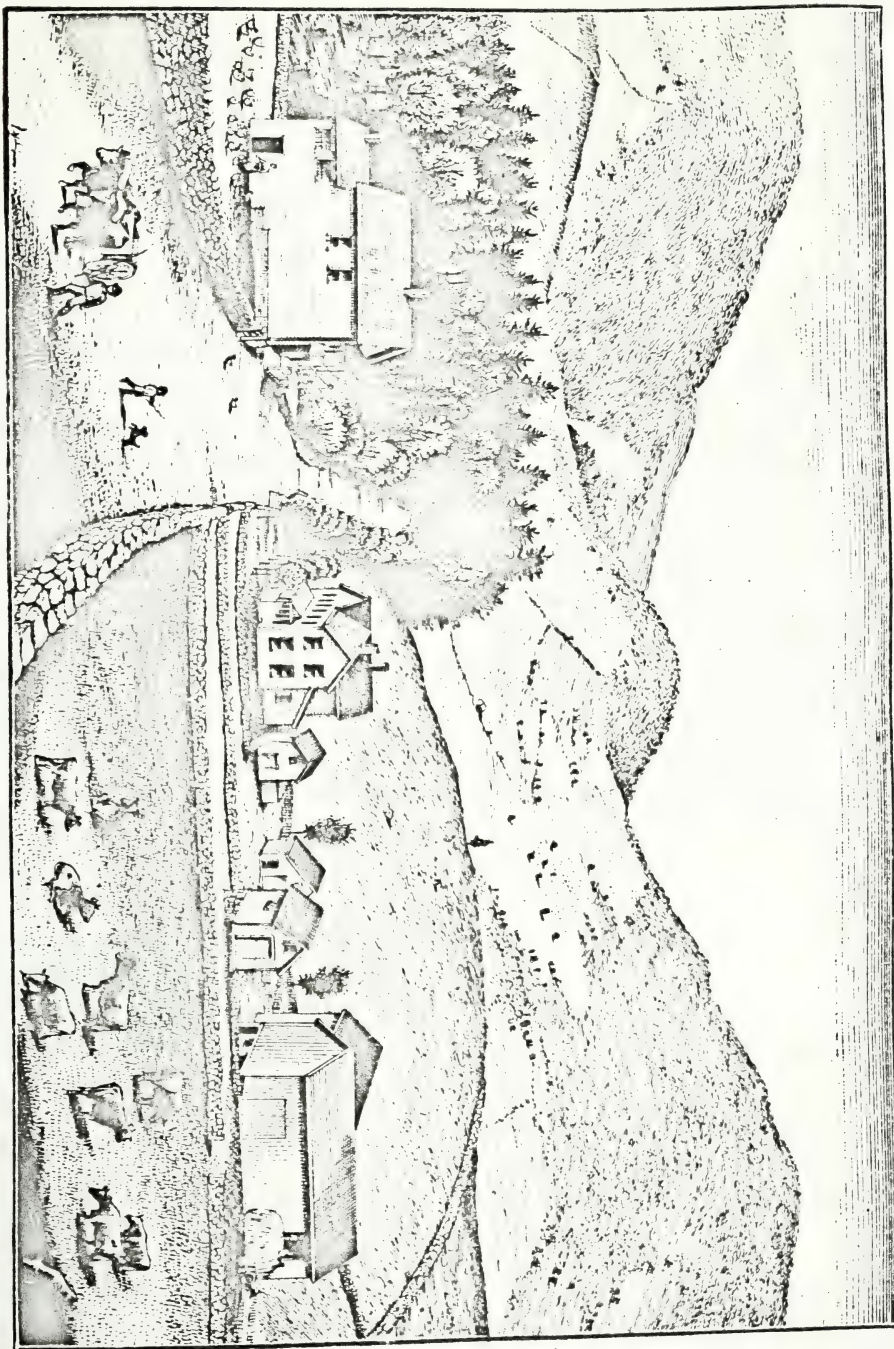
By an Act passed March 16, 1841, entitled "An Act to erect the town of Gilboa from Broome and Blenheim," the following bounds are given in Laws of New York, Seventy-first Session, Chapter XCII:—

"Sec. 1. All that part of the towns of Broome and Blenheim in the County of Schoharie, that is included within the following described boundaries, shall be a town and shall be called Gilboa, beginning at the center of the Schoharie creek, where the Manorkill empties in the same, thence along the north-westerly bounds of the town of Conesville to the extremity thereof, being the north-west corner of said town, thence easterly on the boundary line between the towns of Broome and Conesville to the east line of a lot of land owned and occupied by James Barlow as a farm, thence northerly on the said east line of a farm now occupied by Alva Hollenbeck in a straight line to

the east of Keyser's kill, commonly called Black brook, thence northerly along said Black brook and said Keyser's kill to the north line of the present town of Broome, thence easterly along and upon said north line to the division line between Broome and Blenheim, thence southerly along and upon such division line till it comes to the center of the Schoharie creek, at the eastern extremity of the boundary line between lots U and V in the Blenheim Patent, thence along said boundary line westerly to the west extremity thereof, thence in a north-westerly direction on and along the boundary line between lots H and G one hundred and fifty-one and one hundred and fifty-two, one hundred and thirty-five and one hundred and thirty-six, one hundred and nineteen and one hundred and twenty, one hundred and three and one hundred and four, eighty-seven and eighty-eight, seventy-one and seventy-two, fifty-five and fifty-six, in said Blenheim Patent to the east line of the town of Jefferson, thence in a south-westerly direction along said east line to the south bounds of Schoharie county, thence in a south-west direction along said south boundary to the boundary line between the towns of Blenheim and Conesville, thence in a northerly direction along said boundary line to the place of beginning.

"Sec. 2. The first town meeting in said town shall be held on the twentieth day of April next, at the publichouse now kept and occupied by Stephen Briggs, and in each year thereafter the annual town meeting in the said town of Gilboa shall be held on the third Tuesday of February until the time be changed in the manner prescribed by law.

"Sec. 3. Hiram Freidenburgh, James G. Mackey and Luman Reed shall preside at such first town meeting, and shall possess all powers relative to the same that justices of the peace possess at town meetings, and in case they or either of them shall refuse or neglect to serve, the said town meeting shall have power to substitute some elector of said town for each one so refusing or neglecting to serve."



RESIDENCE OF THOMAS COLBY, GILBOA, N. Y.

THOMAS COLBY.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

In the early part of this century, there came from the State of New Hampshire, Nicholas Colby, who settled in the then town of Blenheim, [now Gilboa] Schoharie County, with his wife Sally or Sarah Howe. Here he reared a family of twelve children. The eldest, Eli H. Colby, married Elizabeth Mackey, and settled in the town of Roxbury, Delaware county. Eli's family consisted of eight children, the oldest of whom is Thomas Colby the subject of our present sketch. Thomas Colby was born in the town of Roxbury, Delaware county, on the 23d of March, 1833, and although he attended none but a common school, yet by perseverance he obtained a good education.

At twenty-one he was without worldly means, save the energy and push which he so assiduously cultivated, fired with the zeal, enterprise and thrift so prominently developed later in life, and together with the working capital of a strong arm and determined heart, he decided as he expressed it, to strike out for himself. He bought the farm of 150 acres where he now lives, and soon after added another 100 acres, all of which was in a very low state of cultivation, at the time of his purchase, and would not keep over ten head of cattle. Mr. Colby has so improved it that it now keeps over sixty head, and is one of the best farms in the town of Gilboa. It is situated on the line of the Ulster & Delaware Railroad, which runs in the valley

below, but a few hundred yards off. His residence is located in plain view of the Catskill mountains which give it a pleasant and picturesque appearance. He also owns another farm of about 100 acres situated one mile north of his residence, which he works in connection with the home farm. His farms are devoted strictly to dairying, sending milk to the New York market in the winter season and the making of butter and raising of stock during the summer. Mr. Colby's stock is the Jersey, which he thinks is superior to any other for dairy purposes. He is pre-eminently a working man himself, and is always with his hired help, some of whom have been with him for years.

In politics he is a Republican, and has been honored with several town offices. He meets his obligations promptly, is a man of few words, considers it beneath his dignity to hold argument with any one, and belongs to no church. Mr. Colby has been twice married, his first wife was Julia S. Decker, by whom he was blessed with three children, all of whom died in infancy. By his second wife he has had two children, Thomas, Jr., and Emma.

Mr. Colby is a very conscientious man; his opinions are always fearless and honest, never hesitating to denounce what he believes to be wrong, because others favor it, and never court- ing popularity at the expense of his honor.

CHAPTER VIII.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF CONESVILLE.

SCENERY—MANORKILL FALLS—STRYKER BROTHERS' TANNERY—STEVEN'S MILL—TOLLING A GRIST—COLBY REED—FIRST STORE—CONTRAST OF SCENERY—HUNTING GROUNDS—INDIAN RELICS—DISE PURCHASE OF LAND—URY RICHTMYER—THE DISE SONS—LITIGATION—PETER RICHTMYER—HIS CAPTURE BY INDIANS—ESCAPE—REBUILT HIS HOUSE—OPENS AN INN—HUMPHREY'S—ADDITIONAL SETTLERS—DAIRYING—PROMINENT SETTLERS—TOWN FORMED—BOUNDARIES—JONATHAN CONE—TOWN RECORDS.

TO the visitor approaching the town from the east, a mountainous surface presents itself, whose wildness impresses unfavorably either in a fertile or romantic point of view, but entering upon the western border with the waters of the Manorkill leaping over the precipitous ledge that Nature has so regularly laid as a barrier to the inundations of the Schoharie, a different impression is made. As the tumbling foam dashes from rock to rock with the deep thundering of greater falls, and sends its spray over the path it once followed, ages upon ages ago, our genius is at once lured to admire and find beauty, grandeur and even romance in each object that surrounds us. Upon the very point of the rocks, above a crumbling wall, stands the remnant of a once busy tanning enterprise, built by Barent and Peter M. Stryker, in 1830. It seems to have been a very singular location for such a business when so many more favorable ones were presented along the banks of the stream above. The progenitors of the Stryker family who are and have been so numerous in this section of the County, were two brothers, Barent and Peter, who came from New Jersey about the year 1800. They purchased the lands lying around the falls and east to the hamlet of Strykerville. Barent settled upon the farm occupied by Rev. Loren Cole, while Peter settled upon that of his grandson,

George H. Stryker. One of Barent's daughters married Colby Reed, a native of Vermont, who engaged in the mercantile business at Strykerville in connection with John Stryker, about the year 1815. They were the first merchants. The co-partnership was dissolved a few years after, and Reed located at Blenheim Hill, while Stryker continued and was followed by Peter M., son of Peter, who built the tannery in connection with his cousin Barent. They also built a mill near Gershom Stevens also built a mill where the Thomas mill stands, about the year 1835. Stevens was the object of a joke, such as millers are subject to hear, regardless of their degree of integrity. A farmer brought a large grist to be ground, when three of his sons were working in the mill. The father coming in while the grist was in the hopper, he asked one of the boys if he had "tolled the grist," to which he replied "he had." Another son soon came round and was also asked if "he had tolled that grist?" Upon being answered in the affirmative the old gentleman passed out but soon returned and accosted the third son with the question, "Have you tolled that grist?" "Yes, sir," he replied, "I have." "Are you sure you did?" asked the father, "Yes, sir, I am pretty sure I did." "Well, boys are so careless," said Stevens, "I will toll it myself and make sure of it; boys are not always reliable."

Considerable business was done in the hamlet of Strykerville for several years, but the enterprise of Gilboa village proved a death stroke to the place. In following up the stream the fertile and well kept interval is in deep contrast to the mountain sides that are still covered with the forest and present a striking idea of the country previous to its settlement by the whites. Here, we can imagine, were the hunting grounds of the Delawares, Mohawks and the tribes along the Hudson, ere the stroke of enterprise resounded to annihilate the race and Nature's wildness. At various places along the creek, relics of the race, such as stone arrows, rough-hewn knives and hatchets were found by the early settlers, each bearing a different ingenuity, perhaps peculiar to the tribe to which they belonged.

The lands of this town were chiefly pur-

chased by the Dise family and one Ury Richtmyer. Letters patent of the year 1754 were granted to the latter for two tracts, one lying in the western and the other in the eastern part of the town. He settled east of the stone bridge and died in 1769, and his was supposed to be the first death in the town. He was a German and became connected with several others in the purchase of land, chief among whom was John Dise, whose family became notorious as friends of the Crown in the Revolution. The father left a large property, and in his day was one of the leading business men of Rondout. The sons lived upon the land, and in their frequent visits to the Hudson surprised the frugal inhabitants by exhibiting their science in drinking rum and throwing silver coins in the river. They thereby became reduced financially, and whether honorably or dishonorably, to replenish their purses, they instituted suits against those who had purchased and leased lands of them, and also against Richtmyer. They were in litigation many years in the Kings Court but were unsuccessful in the end, and were left with but little means. Ury Richtmyer was followed by a son John, whose family we believe to be extinct in the County. Mrs. Ury Richtmyer was taken to the middle fort upon commencement of hostilities in Schoharie, and died through fright, as stated in Chapter III of this work. Peter Richtmyer, one of three brothers who settled at Hartman's dorf wandered off to the Manorkill when but a young man, and settled with Ury. He built a log-house near where George Van Dyke's mansion stands and cleared quite a farm by the time the war began. While working upon the flat below the house one afternoon, he was surprised by a squad of Indians and a Tory and taken prisoner. The captors had been upon a raid near the Hudson and had a few prisoners that were bound with cords and compelled to carry the plunder they had obtained. Peter was driven along but his family escaped. The party followed the creek to the Schoharie and down that stream to the Patchin place, where they turned up the Westkill and encamped for the night near the sawmill. Peter was not bound but watched closely, and when called upon to turn in for the night, he jumped to escape and was confronted by a

Tory neighbor, with a musket pointed at his breast. Seeing the gun was his own, with a worthless flint, he pressed on past the Tory and was urged by the fruitless click! click! of the old gun. He returned to his house and after finding his family, pushed on that night for the Hudson where he left his wife, while he returned to the Upper fort and did duty under Hager to the close of the war. After that event he rebuilt, and in 1789 opened an inn, the first one in that part of the County, and began to accumulate a fine property. He was followed by his sons Abram, George and Daniel, who built the present Van Dyke mansion, and did a paying business. Below "Richtmyer's" was another hotel long known as "Humphreys," and around those two houses the chief business attractions of the town clustered for many long years.

After the war closed, quite a number of families from the eastern States and the older settled portions of the County located in the town, the Yankee climbing upon the hills while the Dutch and Germans settled in the valleys. The former true to his nature, adopted stock raising, which has culminated in dairying by all classes, and been the means of raising the standard of the town among other towns of the County in productiveness nearly fifty per cent within the period of twenty-five years. The prominent families that moved in the town in the fore part of the century, beside those already mentioned were:—Patrie, Shew, Scoville, Kringle, Hubbard, Luring, Crane, Mattice and Allerton. Owing to the large territory of the town of Broome and the distance the people of a goodly portion of the town were compelled to go to transact town business, a petition was forwarded to the Legislature for the formation of a new town. On the 3d of March, 1836, an act was passed to divide the town of Broome and the town of Durham:—

"Beginning at the centre of Schoharie Creek, in the County of Schoharie, where the Manor creek empties in the same; thence north forty-six degrees east one hundred and seventy-six chains, to the northwest corner of a lot in Scott's patent known as the "Leming lot," thence east along the lines of lots in the said patent three hundred and twenty chains to the east line of

said patent, thence south along the east line of the said patent twenty-one chains to the north line of Stringer's patent; thence east along the north line of the said mentioned patent, one hundred and seventy-six chains, to the east line of the County of Schoharie; thence southerly along the said east line of the said County, to the north line of the County of Greene; thence eastwardly along the north line of the said County of Greene, thirty-four chains: thence south two degrees east, one hundred and sixty-six chains to the dividing line between the towns of Durham and Windham; thence westwardly and northwardly along the said dividing line and the dividing line between Durham and Prattsville, until it intersects the north line of the County of Greene, thence westwardly along the said County line, to the centre of the said Schoharie creek, and thence northwardly down the centre of the said creek to the place of beginning.

"(Sec. 4). The first annual town meeting in the said new town of Conesville, shall be held on the third Tuesday of April next, (1837,) at the inn of Abraham Richtmyer therein, commencing at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day.

"Peter Stryker, Joshua Nowlen and Chancellor Spenser, or any two of them, may preside at, conduct and record the proceedings of the first annual town meeting, and shall have the like power for such purpose as are vested in the justices of the peace and town clerk, by article second. title second of chapter eleven of the first part of the Revised Statutes; and they or two of them, shall cause notices in writing of the time and place of holding such first annual town meeting to be posted at four or more of the most public places in the said new town at least eight days before the time of such meeting."

The town was named after Rev. Jonathan Cone, a man whose Christian qualities endeared him to all classes throughout this part of the country.

The earliest records of the town were lost, and we are therefore debarred from giving them, and favoring the reader with matter that usually proves interesting. Town records, in general, are poorly kept and preserved, although

more care is taken at the present time than formerly. Too much attention has been given to nominate officers that would make an election sure, instead of looking for necessary qualifications, but at present all classes receiving some educational advantages, it is hard to find one who is so deficient as to be incompetent, and hence a more methodical record is kept.

The following have been elected supervisors with the years of service:

- 1836—Abram Richtmyer.
- 1837—Joshua Nowlen.
- 1838—do
- 1839—Earent Stryker.
- 1840—Peter Stryker.
- 1841—Chancellor Spenser.
- 1842—Ira Nowlen.
- 1843—Joshua Nowlen.
- 1844—Chancellor Spenser.
- 1845—Elisha Hammond.
- 1846—do
- 1847—Lewis P. Mattice.
- 1848—William Lamont.
- 1849—do
- 1850—do
- 1851—William Lee.
- 1852—Orluff M. Humphrey.
- 1853—Loren P. Cole.
- 1854—James Hay.
- 1855—Erastus Case.
- 1856—Lewis P. Mattice.
- 1857—J. D. Newell.
- 1858—Newel Day.
- 1859—Loren P. Cole.
- 1860—Lewis P. Mattice.
- 1861—Ira D. Humphrey.
- 1862—Peter H. Richtmyer.
- 1863—Lewis P. Mattice.
- 1864—Loren P. Cole.
- 1865—Peter Couchman.
- 1866—do
- 1867—do
- 1868—do
- 1869—do
- 1870—do
- 1871—do
- 1872—do
- 1873—Stephen J. Hitchcock.
- 1874—D. H. Miller.

- 1875—D. B. Thorpe.
 1876— do
 1877—George VanDyke.
 1878— do
 1879—Loren P. Cole.
 1880—Peter Couchman.
 1881—Alexander W. Patrie.
 1882—G. Gaylord.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

HON. PETER COUCHMAN.

Peter Couchman was born in the town of Broome, July 28, 1833, and traces his ancestry back to Germany. His great-grandfather came to this country about the year 1780, and settled in Dutchess county. Philip Couchman, his father, lived in Canada a number of years, and was living there at the outbreak of the war between England and the United States in 1812. He was a Whig in politics, and would have probably remained so had he not become disgusted with the actions of the Whigs who lived as neighbors to him while in Canada; and expressed their sympathies for Great Britain while the Democrats were espousing the cause of their country. He left the party then and there.

The subject of our sketch is the son of Philip Couchman and Zilpha Winans, of Albany county; he is the youngest of a family of ten children, eight of whom are now living. Mr. Couchman lived at home until his father's death in 1857. He attended the district schools of his native town; and in 1862 was united in marriage to Mary Bloodgood, of Conesville. He first entered the political field as a candidate for Supervisor of the town of Conesville, in 1865, when he was elected by a handsome majority. As a proof of his popularity we need only say that he was re-elected for eight consecutive terms; and again he came before the people in 1871 as a candidate for Member of Assembly, when he was elected, running far

ahead of his ticket; he was re-elected the following year. Being a Democrat, in a Legislature largely Republican, the heavy committee work naturally fell to the party in power. During his first term he served on the Committee of Internal Affairs of Towns and Counties, and on Committee on Expenditures of the House. During his second term he served on the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Charitable and Religious institutions. Mr. Couchman rendered good service to the people of his County in securing for them a deed to the lower Stone Fort in Schoharie, a relic of the dark and bloody days that are connected with the history of the County. It had been purchased by the State, years ago for an arsenal. Adjutant-General Rathbone recommended the sale of all the State arsenals, this one among the number, but through the exertion and influence of Mr. Couchman it was deeded to Schoharie, free of cost. The building was used as a fort and church, and is in a remarkable state of preservation. The old building is an object of great interest, and is held more than dear by the descendants of the glorious old patriots that took shelter within its walls.

In 1880 Mr. Couchman was repeatedly urged by many of the reliable Democrats to accept of the nomination for Congress from his district, which comprised Ulster, Greene and Schoharie counties. The nomination would have been equivalent to an election, as the district was strongly Democratic, yet Mr. Couchman refused the proposed honor, much against the wishes of his friends, owing to the fact that he perceived a growing feeling in the district against electing a Schoharie man to the office. The wisdom of his course became apparent, when, as the result of the election, the one who was nominated from Schoharie county was badly beaten, and owed his defeat to this one reason.

Of Mr. Couchman's brothers, John W. served in the Legislature of 1860; three brothers are ministers, Milo and John are Methodists, and Philip is a minister of the Christian Church. In connection with Mr. Couchman's public career we must mention the fact that the handsome and commodious court-house at Scho-



State Library.

HON. PETER COUCHMAN.

harie was built while he was in the Board of Supervisors, and we simply write the truth when we say that but for the position taken by him and one or two of his associates, instead of the fine structure we now see, there would have been something decidedly inferior.

Mr. Couchman is a farmer, and makes his business as such a sort of profession. A large part of his time at home is devoted to his library and the news of the day. His probity, ability, and geniality, have secured to him the confidence and esteem of the people of his district in a marked degree. Quickness of discernment, readiness of action and undoubted integrity are among his most decided characteristics. He has been a Democratic wheel-horse in his town for years, and is well versed in general politics.

CHAPTER IX.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF BROOME.

WHEN FORMED—NAME CHANGED—CATSKILL CREEK—INDIAN TRAIL—GENERAL ASPECT—FIRST SETTLERS—TORIES' ROUTE—ADDITIONAL SETTLERS—DANIEL SHAYS—HIS LIFE—REBELLION AND DEATH—DAVID WILLIAMS—HIS LIFE—INCIDENTS RELATING TO CAPTURE OF ANDRE—COMMENTS ON WILLIAMS AND ANDRE—THEIR PRINCIPLES COMPARED—WILLIAMS' DEATH—BURIAL—SON AND GRANDSON—MOUNT WILLIAMS—LIVINGSTONVILLE—ASA STARKWEATHER—HIS OFFICIAL LIFE—HIS ARGUMENT IN CONVENTION—DEATH—ADAM MATTICE—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—METHODIST CHURCH—DRAFT OF 1813—SMITHTON—HUBBARD'S—THE VLY—SUPERVISORS—BOUNDS.

THIS town was one of the original six that were formed March 1, 1797, and bore the name of Bristol. Upon the 6th of April, 1808, for reasons unknown to the writer, the name

was changed to Broome, in honor of the then acting Lieutenant Governor, John Broome, who was repeatedly elected with Daniel D. Tompkins, as Governor. Undoubtedly, had not death closed his successful and honored career in 1811, he would have retained the position to the close of Governor Tompkins administration, at least, in 1816, as he was so highly admired by the people.

The Catskill creek takes its rise in this town, and was formerly fed by a large swamp, called the vlaie, (now pronounced *vly*,) now drained, which has been a marked locality since the Aborigines of the country formed a path leading from the Hudson River, near Catskill, to the Schoharie valley and the wigwams of the western tribes of the confederation. It was along this path following the Catskill creek, to the Vly, that the first German settlers of the Schoharie valley traversed (as noted in Chapter II,) in the winter time of 1713. Along this path also the Stockbridge and their more southern neighboring tribes passed, to reach the hunting grounds of *Skochalie*—or her medicinal waters, long, long before the "remnant of tribes" formed one, along the course of her beautiful river. Perhaps along this path the Mohawk braves traveled to meet the valiant Mohegans in deadly strife, for the supremacy of power, and again to pounce upon the weaker tribes of Manhatten and Hackensack, to extort tribute and obedience to their King and councils. Of that primitive and well beaten path nothing is left but the rippling waters that so often slaked the thirst, and guided the steps of the bold athletic warriors through the mighty forest of giant timber. Civilization has marked a change. The forest has disappeared; along the romantic stream and upon the sides of the lofty hills—spacious fields now are seen whose luxuriant verdure are as smiles of Providence upon the labors of intelligence and civilization. Instead of the war whoop or death yell of the savage, and the howling of wild beasts, that once awakened the echoes of the forest, peace is found in the grazing herds, and in the shouts of happy and prosperous yeomen, which are heard amid the clatter of farming implements, gathering the abundant harvest, which was made possible through the labors, anxieties, hopes, fears and

sacrifices of a noble race that drew inspiration of liberty from the teachings of holy writ.

During the Revolution, but few settlers were found within the limits of the town. But one of whom we have any knowledge remained at home and braved the dangers that surrounded the border settlers. Derick Van Dyck passed through the troublesome times, with but an occasional stay at the Upper Fort, when an invasion was expected, and seemed to escape the trouble and suffering that those along the Schoharie creek experienced. His residence was near the present village of Livingstonville, and was burned by Tories in the year 1781. He then removed to Albany and remained until the close of the war. The Tories of the Hudson river that lived near Catskill, and the Indians of the Susquehanna, kept up a continual communication with each other through this territory, and it was here that the scouts of the Middle and Upper Forts often came to intercept the loyalists as they passed through, and caught many from time to time and conveyed the royal adherents to Albany for investigation and imprisonment.

Nothing of importance occurred within the town of a warlike nature during the war, as the settlement was too sparse to draw the enemy for murder and plunder. At the close of the war emigration commenced to flow in from the river counties and Schoharie valley, beside several from the Eastern States.

Those from the latter were:—

Asa Bushnell,
Joshua Bushnell,
Hezekiah Weston,
George Watson,
John Gillet,
Ebenezer Wickham,
George Burtwick,
Ezra Chapman,
Timothy Kelsey,
Elisha Humphry,
Lyman Burchard,
James Ellis,
Henry Rifenburgh.

All of whose families are still to be found within the town.

Daniel Shays.—Among the pioneers of this section was the notable Daniel Shays, the leader of "Shay's Rebellion" in 1786 and '87. He fled to this then isolated country and settled where the village of Preston Hollow now stands, having purchased a large tract of land, a considerable of which lay in the town of Broome. The General was a fine looking man and commanded the respect of all whom he met. His son Hiram studied law and removed to the western part of the State. The General died in Preston Hollow in 1821, where his remains lie beneath a plain head-stone, while his name is more enduringly inscribed upon the pages of history as a staunch yet mistaken advocate of liberty. He was a subaltern officer during the Revolution and made a mark as a brave and efficient soldier, which no doubt was the reason his brother veterans chose him to lead them in defiance of law or order to compel the general court of Massachusetts to redress the people's grievances which they claimed were brought on by heavy taxation through official incompetency to manage the Government.

The facts of the case we here will state, they being so closely connected with our former citizen it can but prove of interest to the reader. For a few years after peace was proclaimed the Government was simply a Revolutionary confederation. Each State was a sovereignty in fact, by itself, and collected its own revenue, Congress not having power to levy duties nor means to carry on the public service only as their annual requisitions for money to the several States were honored. It was without power to issue bills of credit, make treaties or regulate commerce on a permanent basis with foreign powers, or make loans. In fact it was a Congress only in name, as was the Government. The consequence was every thing was in confusion. Foreign commerce was annihilated and trade was embarrassed. Business of every description became paralyzed, property depreciated and ruin stared the whole country in the face. Money was so scarce that when taxes were to be paid "any useful articles," says Goodrich, "were received in lieu of money."

The people had passed through the fiery furnace of war and stood without a knowledge of the administration of National affairs, expecting

that prosperity would follow without a system or head. The people of Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Massachusetts became openly discontented, especially in the latter State. They met in county conventions in 1786 and drew up addresses to the General Court of the State, made volumes of resolves in which they censured the Government officials and threatened open revolt. The veterans of the Revolution were still hot blooded and formed large armed companies and drew together at Springfield in the winter of 1786, numbering several thousands. They chose Daniel Shays as their leader and prepared to march to Boston and compel the court to redress the people's grievances, but concluded to encamp and petition to that body.

During the insurrectionary movements of the discontented, the Governor ordered a force under General Lincoln to march against them, and while collecting his men and marching to the rebels' encampment a force with Shays at their head made an attack upon the arsenal at Springfield, in January, 1787. Upon General Shepard, the State officer in charge, firing upon them with a cannon they retreated in confusion and the whole force withdrew to Pelham. When Lincoln came up with his force several engagements occurred between small parties, each of which sickened the insurgents and made the leaders' spirits droop. Lincoln marched to Pelham to engage with Shays, while Shays marched backwards earnestly begging, through messengers, to negotiate for a pardon. But Lincoln was not to be trifled with and demanded a surrender. Shays retreated from one point to another until some time in February, when Lincoln suddenly pounced upon him at Petersham and put the whole force to rout. Shays made tracks for New York State as he was unable to make a stand against the State troops. The army of insurgents soon laid down their arms and peace once more dawned over the scene. General Shays received a pardon in 1788 and sought the quiet of this town to hide himself from the world. He possessed considerable of this world's goods and lived the life of a gentleman, undoubtedly well pleased with the leniency shown him by the austere government of old Massachusetts.

Following Shays came one of America's noblest patriots, David Williams.

David Williams was one of the captors of Major Andre, and one whose name will resound to all futurity as a true and unswerving patriot. David Williams, Isaac VanWart, John Paulding! At the mention of their names, what assurances of fidelity to country, principle, and manly work, lift the student above the corrupt bickerings that fill the pages of our National histories, and arouse a pride in the integrity of the uncouth yeomen that battled against royalty and bequeathed to us our liberties.

Coming to us from such sources and through such constancy and devotion, their value is enhanced and honor unstained. Of him who honored our County by choosing Broome's romantic hill-sides as his home, we extract from the *Albany Daily Advertiser* the biography, dictated by himself but a few months previous to his death, in which the circumstances of Andre's capture are related.

"I was born in Tarrytown, then called Philips Manor, Westchester county, N. Y., October 21, 1754. I entered the army in 1775, at the age of 21, and was under General Montgomery at the siege of Fort St. John, and afterwards on board the flat-bottomed boats to carry provision. Served out my time which was six months, and enlisted again in the spring of 1776, and continued in the service by different enlistments, as a New York militiaman until 1779, etc.

In 1778, when in Captain Acker's company of New York militia, at Tarrytown, I asked his permission to take a walk in company with William VanWart, a boy sixteen or seventeen years old and proceeded with him, to the cross-roads on Tompkins' ridge. We stood looking a few moments and saw five men coming, who had firearms; we jumped over a stone fence and concealed ourselves in a corner of it, and observed that they were armed with two muskets and three pistols. They came so near that we recognized two of them, viz: Wm. Underhill and Wm. Mosher, who were Tories, and known to be of DeLancey's corps. When they came within proper distance, I said to my companion, 'Billy, neck or no joint!' I then said aloud, as if speaking to a number, with a view of intimidat-

ing them, 'Men *make ready*?' They stopped immediately. I then told them to ground their arms, which they did. I then said, 'March away,' and they did so. I then jumped over the fence, secured their arms, and made them march before us to our quarters. I continued in the service until a week or ten days before the year 1780. In December, 1779, Captain Daniel Williams, who was commander of our company, mounted us on horses, and he went to Morrisania, Westchester county. We swept all Morrisania clear, took probably \$5,000 worth of property, and returned to Tarrytown and quartered at Young's house. My feet being frozen, my uncle Martinus Van Wart, took me to his house. I told Captain Williams that the enemy would soon be at Young's, and that if he remained there he would be on his way to Morrisania before morning, but he paid no attention to my remarks—he did not believe me. In the course of the night a woman came to my uncle's crying, 'Uncle Martinus! Uncle Martinus!' The truth was, the British had surrounded Young's house, made prisoners of all the company except two, and burnt the barn.

Having got well of my frozen feet, on the 3d of June, 1780, we were all driven from Tarrytown to the upper part of Westchester county, in the town of Salem. We belonged to no organized company at all, were under no command, and worked for our board or *johnny-cake*. Isaac VanWart, who was a cousin of mine [the father of Williams and mother of VanWart were brother and sister,] Nicholas Storms and myself went to Tarrytown on a visit. We carried our muskets with us, and on our way took a Quaker, who said he was going to New York after salt and other things. The Quaker was taken before the American authority and acquitted. In July or August a number of persons, of whom I was one, went on a visit to our friends in Tarrytown, and while on the way took ten head of cattle, which some refugees were driving to New York, and, on examination before the authority, the cattle were restored to their right owners, as they pleaded innocence, saying they were stolen from them. I then returned to Salem, and worked with a Mr. Benedict for my board, until the 22d of September. It was about one o'clock P. M., as I was standing

in the door with Mr. Benedict's daughter (who was afterward my wife,) when I saw six men coming. She remarked, 'They have got guns.' I jumped over a board fence and met them. 'Boys,' said I, 'where are you going?' They answered 'we are going to Tarrytown.' I then said 'if you will wait until I get my gun I will go with you.' The names of the six persons were, Isaac VanWart, John Paulding, William Williams, John Yerks and James Romer, the name of the sixth I have forgotten. We proceeded about fifteen miles that night, and slept in a hay barrack. In the morning we crossed Buttermilk hill, when John Paulding proposed to go to Isaac Reed's and get a pack of cards to divert ourselves with. After procuring them we went out to Davis' hill, where we separated, leaving four on the hill and three, viz: VanWart, Paulding and myself, proceeded on the Tarrytown road about one mile and concealed ourselves in the bushes on the west side of the road, and commenced playing cards three handed, that is, each one for himself. We had not been playing more than an hour, when we heard a horse galloping across a bridge but a few yards from us. Which of us spoke I do not remember, but one of us said, 'there comes a trader going to New York.' We stepped out from our concealment and stopped him. 'My lads,' said he, 'I hope you belong to our party.' We asked him 'what party?' he replied, 'the lower party.' We told him we did. He then said, 'I am a British officer, have been up the country on particular business, and would not wish to be detained a minute,' and as a token to convince us he was a gentleman, he pulled out and showed us his gold watch; we then told him we were Americans. 'God bless my soul,' said he, 'a man must do any thing these times to get along,' and then showed us Arnold's pass. We told him it would not satisfy us without searching him. 'My lads,' said he, 'you will bring yourselves into trouble.' We answered, 'we did not fear it,' and conducted him about seventy rods into the woods. My comrades appointed me to search him; commencing with his hat, I searched his person effectually, but found nothing until I pulled off his boot, when we discovered that something was concealed in his stocking. Paulding caught hold of his foot and

exclaimed, 'by G—d, here it is!' I pulled off his stocking, and inside of it, next to the sole of his foot, found three half sheets of paper inclosed in another half sheet which was indorsed 'West Point'; and on pulling off the other boot and stocking, I found three like papers, inclosed and indorsed as the others. On reading them, one of my companions said, 'by G—d, he is a *spy*!' We then asked him where he got those papers? he told us, of a man at Pine's bridge,' but he said he 'did not know his name.' He offered us his gold watch, his horse, saddle, bridle and 100 guineas, if we would let him go; we told him 'no, unless he would inform us where he got the papers.' He answered us as before, but increased his offer to 1,000 guineas, his horse, etc.; we told him again we would not let him go; he then said, 'gentlemen, I will give you 10,000 guineas' [nearly \$50,000] 'and as many dry goods as you will ask; conceal me in any place of safety while you can send to New York with an order to Sir Henry Clinton from me, and the goods and money will be procured so that you can get them unmolested.' [Paulding then told him, as he stated on the trial of Joshua H. Smith, a few days after the arrest]: 'No, by G—d, if you would give us 10,000 guineas you should not stir a step; we are Americans, and above corruption, and go with us you must.' We then took him, about twelve miles, to Col. Jamieson's quarters at North Castle."

The account of the capture is an old story in history but should be ever new to Americans and all lovers of manly principle. Mr. Williams and his honored comrades were chided by the emissaries of royalty as "roving renegades," and their motives* were questioned, while those of them captives were applauded by pen and tongue. We of to-day may look upon the comrades as sturdy yeoman, clad in homely attire, burned by the exposure of sun and storms and with minds and forms untutored by scholastic advantages or courtly graces, while with Andre, his mind, body and aspirations were the offspring of royal culture from the lap of luxury and pretended virtue. The three were on duty without pay to intercept "unlawful intercourse with the enemy," and boldly wandered here and

there without disguise or wantonness. Andre was on a mission degrading in the estimation of Christian soldiery, sneaking in disguise to the citadel of an honorable adversary and subtly winning a weak and unsteady heart, fired by a jealous and maddened brain, to betray all principles of honor and every characteristic of patriotism, for gold. And when the royal siren, through the admired affability of his address had accomplished his object, with assumed name and garments he bent his course to deliver up to his commander that which he had so dishonorably obtained, and bask once more in luxury and the petted tamperings of the giddy society of New York. But "halt!" is the command, and when the three stepped forth and their demands and nationality were made known, then again the subtlety of the man so much admired and honored was brought in requisition. But he had not met an Arnold this time, or men whose appearance or principles were assumed. "We are Americans!" was their introduction, "what are you?" Andre had already told, but not possessing that steadfast patriotism that filled the hearts of Williams, Van Wart and Paulding, he disowned his country and claimed allegiance to that, which the papers he hid in his boots, were to enslave.

Again money, goods and undoubtedly British glory were offered for the corruption of their hearts, but again we say he had not met an Arnold! The pall fell over the hopes of Clinton, treason of Arnold and the strategy and corpse of Andre, while veneration and the blessings of a grateful people and an immortal renown fell upon the three brave and steadfast patriotic yeomen! Williams died on the 2nd of August, 1831, at the age of seventy-seven, and was buried at Livingstonville with military honors, where his ashes lay until the 4th of March, 1876, when they were removed to Rensselaerville, and on the 19th of July following they were again disturbed and now lie beneath an appropriate monument near the stone fort at Schoharie, particularly described in another portion of this work. Mr. Williams left an only son, David W. Williams, who retained the farm and who, with the father has passed away leaving two sons, William C. and Daniel, to perpetuate the family name. The homestead is upon the mountain

*See Appendix.

north of Livingstonville and should give to the elevation the name of Mount Williams.

LIVINGSTONVILLE.

This small yet picturesque village is upon the Catskill creek and surrounded by giant hills, whose rough appearance denotes unproductiveness. Yet, while the labor is greater in cultivating, we find their productiveness copes very favorably with more level sections. The original settlers were chiefly Yankees, whose fascination can only be satisfied by lofty hills, bubbling springs and rushing streams, with herds of cattle and sheep surrounding him and growing in value while he without fear of the return of another day enjoys the noon-day nap and the thoughts of others from his welcome newspaper or favorite book.

This village contained but one house in 1812 and was not a center of business until about the year 1820. Previous to that date the "Frisbee tavern" farther down the valley was the center where the people of the neighborhood met to hear and tell the news, obtain their mail and cogitate upon the unjust oppressions of their landlords, the Livingstons. That family, owning a large tract of land within the town and Albany county adjoining, stationed a relative, Asa Starkweather, here in 1810 to look after their interests in the sale and leasing of land and collection of rents.

Asa Starkweather was a native of New London, Conn., and a mechanic. He began business in New York City but was unsuccessful and settled here at the age of thirty-seven. In 1820 he was appointed one of the delegates to the State Constitutional Convention, in which he took an active part in debate, especially upon the appointing powers. In his speech the 5th of October, 1820, he said:—

"The principle cause of complaint by the great body of yeomanry against the present council of appointment has not specifically been mentioned by any gentleman of the committee. It is not because the person appointed happened to be of different political principles; nor because members of the legislature interfere with the council and mingle their official duties with

political considerations; but because bad men are sometimes appointed, who are in fact a terror to those who do well.

"The charity and good feeling of the farmers induce them to believe that the respectable council did not know their private characters: consequently, the electors say, 'bring the appointments to the people.' Sir, by this they do not mean to bring the appointments directly to the ballot boxes; they do not wish additional confusion and turmoil there. But they want a selection made, where the characters of the candidates are known; and if the selection is made by the Board of Supervisors, and Judges of the county court, they must know the character of every man they recommend, and they dare not recommend a bad man, the ghost of public clamour would haunt them in their dreams; and by this mode of selection the people would be safe; it is the best plan that has been suggested and I shall vote* for it. But let us for one moment consider the plan of election. It is a fact that immoral men can bring more votes to the polls than any moral, good man; and if they are not directly the candidates, they will have their friend for a candidate, and by using their influence and rallying their satellites, will lay him under obligations to favor them in his official capacity; consequently a remedy for the evil would not be found here. The Gentleman from New York is opposed to the amendment, because it gives to the executive the appointing power, who is not responsible for the appointments.

"Sir, I am willing to give this power to the executive, because we ask no responsibility from him. He cannot do wrong unless he travels out of the two lists of candidates, and this he cannot do by the amendment proposed. Sir, it has been urged that no possible good could arise from having the Governor appoint and commission the Justices of the peace. In answer to this, as the executive is commander-in-chief of the militia, and whose official duty is to see that the laws are faithfully executed, it is highly proper that every commissioned officer should receive his authority from the chief magistrate, and to whom he should be accountable for the faithful performance of his duty."

Mr. Starkweather was not placed upon any committee and his views upon the various subjects brought before the convention, did not receive the approval of the majority. He appeared to be strongly in favor of centralization, and giving the right of suffrage only to property owners, and men of lucrative positions. He died on the 10th of August, 1846, at the age of sixty-three years and eight months, and was buried in the old cemetery. His wife was Mary Robinson, who died in April, 1862, in the seventy-ninth year of her age. Beside them lie Mrs. Starkweather's father and mother, James and Sarah Robinson, who passed several years with their daughter, in her secluded home.

Adam Mattice.—In our rambles to the new cemetery, upon the hill-side, south of the village, we were led to the grave of one of Broome's representative men, Adam Mattice.

Mr. Mattice was a careful business man and held various local offices in the town and gave universal satisfaction to his people who elected him to the office of supervisor in 1832 and '34, when he made himself prominent as an official, which gained for him the nomination and election of sheriff in 1834. During his term of office, considerable discontent was made manifest by the Livingston tenants in this portion of the County, but Mr. Mattice faithfully performed his duties without incurring the displeasure of his Anti-Rent neighbors. In 1848 he was elected to the State Legislature from the Eastern district with James Parsons, of Leesville, and in 1861 was once more sent to the board of supervisors.

Becoming an old man he retired from business and official cares, and died at his home on the 10th of January, 1868, at the age of seventy-five. His wife, Nancy Winans lived till December, 18, 1874, when she followed her husband at the ripe old age of eighty-two.

The Presbyterian Church of Livingstonville is the oldest religious organization in town, and upon its organization in 1817 as a Congregational church, was the only one of that denomination in the County. Their meetings were held in private residences and the school house

until the year 1831, when the present edifice was erected.

The year previous it was changed to a Presbyterian organization. The first members were seven in number, as follows:—

George Stimson and wife,
Asa Bushnell and wife,
Rhoda Clark,
Sally Stimson,
Asa Starkweather.

The first elders were:—

Asa Starkweather,
Joshua Bushnell,
Timothy Kelsey,
Asa Bushnell.

The present ones are:—

Robert Bortwick,
Arthur Bortwick,
E. W. Dutton.

Mr. Dutton to whom we are indebted for information in regard to this church, and present clerk, states that S. R. Gray was the first pastor, and B. D. Wyckoff the present, but is unable to give a list of those in the intervening time.

Julius Dutton.—Among the early settlers of this section was Julius Dutton who died July 27, 1870, at the age of seventy-nine. Of him the *Schoharie Republican* of that date says: "Mr Dutton was eleven years of age when he settled in Broome, from Litchfield county, Connecticut. During a long and eventful life he filled many responsible positions, always discharging the trusts reposed in him with signal ability and fidelity. He was during a period of thirty-nine years a member of the Presbyterian church and thirty-eight years a deacon of the same. He was twice married and was the father of thirteen sons, eleven of whom, with his widow survive him.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of this place was organized about the year 1824, by the Rev. John Bangs, long a circuit preacher and presiding elder in the New York conference. The records not being accessible, we are indebted to

the memory of Mr. R. Ellis, long a member of the society and the present class-leader. James Ellis, the father of our informant was one of the leading ones in the organization.

The first trustees were:—

Elisha Humphrey,
Lyman Burchard
Henry Rifenburgh.

The first church building was erected down the valley about one half a mile, in a pine grove, and removed to the present site in 1845. The membership is forty and supports in connection a progressive Sabbath school.

DRAFT OF 1813.

The first quota drawn in 1812 for the defence of the Northern borders against British invasion, had become depleted by an epidemic that raged fearfully in the camps, and the enemy making extensive preparations for the campaign of 1813, the government was forced to call for more men, and ordered a draft from the ranks of the militia, requiring every fourth man. To Mr. Ellis we are indebted for the list drawn from this town. The militia company met at the "Frisbee house," and the following were drawn:—

Joseph A. Rawley,
Carly Robinson,
Amos Serles,
Daniel Serles,
Heman Roe,
Walter Winans,
Jeremiah Reed,
Bates Reed,
Peter Bunker,
William See,
Blaisdel Dickinson.

Peter Bunker was a deputy sheriff in 1819, and while in office died at Schoharie.

SMITHTOWN.

Aaron and Giles H. Hubbard settled at this place in the beginning of the century, and were two well educated and enterprising men. The latter was a graduate of Union College and fitted himself for the law, but was called upon to succeed Abraham Keyser as Sheriff of the

County. He received the appointment on the 9th of February, 1819, and served until February 12, 1821.

Aaron was elected to the Legislature in 1816 and '17, with Isaac Barber and Peter A. Hilton, and again in 1819 with Jedediah Miller and Peter Swart, Jr. Both of these gentlemen held local offices, but at what time we are unable to say as the early records of the town are not accessible. Aaron exchanged his farm with Comfort Smith for four hundred acres of land in "New Connecticut" or Ohio, upon which he removed, where the city of Cleveland now stands. The exchange made the family immensely wealthy, as they continue to hold the title to a goodly share of the original farm which was divided into city lots.

Smithtown was the name given to the hamlet after Mr. Smith became a resident.

The Christian Church of this place was organized, and a house of worship built in 1859, under the patronage of Rev. Mr. Roberts. The society are energetic and sincere in their liberal views of belief, and call to their pulpit able men.

FRANKLINTON, OR "THE VLY."

The Rev. Charles S. Duncan, an energetic and thorough Methodist preacher, organized the *Methodist Episcopal Church* at this place in 1828. At one time during Rev. Mr. Duncan's pastorate, the congregation assembled to listen to his sermon, when he became suddenly indisposed and sent his two sons (at present living, Joel and William,) then mere lads, to give the people notice that there would not be any preaching. The boys considered themselves capable of leading in the services and entered the house with the dignity of riper years, and requested the people to be seated. William led in a long prayer, and was followed by Joel with an exhortation, after which a hymn was sung and the congregation dismissed.

The society built the present edifice in 1845, and it proved a nucleus around which the village has grown and become a center for the farming community to find mechanics and tradesmen for repairs and domestic supplies.

The "Vly" was drained by the farmers owning portions of it nearly thirty years ago, which gave to them valuable land in too great contrast to the hill-sides that surround it. Here might be obtained the best water power in the County by building aqueducts at each outlet to hold the water, so abundantly supplied by springs. The enterprise and capital of the Eastern States would here create a business that would soon overbalance the whole town in value of production by establishing factories of different characters.

SUPERVISORS.

The records of this town have not been kept with that care they should have received, and from time to time have been borrowed by piecemeal and not returned. Being one of the first towns formed, the early records could but be interesting and valuable. We copy the supervisors elected, from the earliest dates that could be found:—

1830—S. Bortle.
 1831—Barent Stryker.
 1832—S. Bortle.
 1833—Adam Mattice.
 1834—do
 1835—Joseph Scofield.
 1836—W. J. Mackey.
 1837—Joseph Scofield.
 1838—do
 1839—Daniel Jackson.
 1840—Henry Tibbetts.
 1841—William W. Stewart.
 1842—Hiram Mace.
 1843—A. Stanton.
 1844—Nelson Fanning.
 1845—Martin B. Thomas.
 1846—Philip Couchman.
 1847—Anson Clark.
 1848—Wilkeson Wilsey.
 1849—George Cheritree.
 1850—Wilkeson Wilsey.
 1851—George Cheritree.
 1852—E. Benjamin.
 1853—Lyman Hulburt.
 1854—Ogden Benjamin.
 1855—James F. Connor.
 1856—Robert C. Leonard.

1857—Ogden Benjamin.
 1858—Robert C. Leonard.
 1859—E. Benjamin.
 1860—E. A. Wightman.
 1861—Adam Mattice.
 1862—E. A. Wightman.
 1863—James F. Connor.
 1864—Andrew Graham.
 1865—Hiram Sornberger.
 1866—George W. Ellis.
 1867—do
 1868—R. Benjamin.
 1869—do
 1870—Nelson Rust.
 1871—do
 1872—Wilkeson Wilsey.
 1873—do
 1874—Ira Benjamin.
 1875—Nelson Rust.
 1876—George A. Dutton.
 1877—John H. Mattice.
 1878—Wesley Rifenburg.
 1879—do
 1880—Erastus Almy.
 1881—Myron Losee.
 1882—do

MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY.

1816—Aaron Hubbard.
 1817—do
 1819—do
 1828—Henry Devereaux.
 1845—Adam Mattice.
 1852—Seymour Sornberger.
 1855—Wilkeson Wilsey.
 1860—John W. Couchman.

SHERIFFS.

Giles H. Hubbard, appointed February 9, 1819.

Adam Mattice, elected November, 1834.

COUNTY SCHOOL COMMISSIONER.

Nelson Rust, elected 1837.

BOUNDARIES.

By the act of 1813 the town of Broome was, after the towns of Blenheim, Middleburgh, Schoharie, Cobleskill, Carlisle and Sharon, thus defined:—

"And all that part of the said County of Schoharie bounded on the north by Middleburgh, on the east and south by the bounds of the County, and on the west by Blenheim, shall be and continue a town by the name of Broome."

CHAPTER X.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF JEFFERSON.

WHEN SETTLED—BY WHOM—INTEREST IN EDUCATION—FIRST TOWN MEETING—EFFORT TO CHANGE THE NAME OF TOWN—HEMAN HICKOK—JEFFERSON ACADEMY—DONATORS—STEPHEN JUDD'S DONATION OF FARM—TEACHERS IN ACADEMY—PRESENT SCHOOL—TANNERIES—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—MERCHANTS—PHYSICIANS—JUDD FAMILY—SOCIETIES—MASONIC—GRAND ARMY REPUBLIC—METHODIST CHURCH—WEST KILL METHODIST CHURCH—GALT'S HISTORY OF THE METHODIST SOCIETY OF THE TOWN—REVOLUTIONARY INCIDENTS—SMITH STREET—TORY CLAWSON—TAKEN PRISONER—SMITH FAMILY—BATTLE AT LAKE—OFFICIAL—SUPERVISORS—GENERAL APPEARANCE OF TOWN—THE LAKE—TRYON COUNTY LINE—REBELLION—AMOUNT OF TOWN BONDS ISSUED—BOUNDARIES.

THE town of Jefferson was first settled by New England people in 1793 and 1794, whose energy made her lofty hills and winding valleys prototypes of the old Berkshires of Massachusetts and the Lebanon hills of Connecticut. When Stephen Marvin, Erastus Judd, James McKenzie, Henry Shelmandine, Marvin and Stephen Judd, Ezra Beard, James Hubbard, and others of equal vim settled here, a spirit of progression unlike that attending the settlers of other towns, excepting the eastern part of Wright, made itself manifest in two features,

that are to-day, and ever will be, the attractive ones of the town. The first is the lively interest in education, and the second the application of those advantages derived, to the systematic progression of agriculture as shown in the general appearance of the town and total production.

But a few years elapsed before others from New England and the Hudson river counties followed the Yankee pioneers and with them took measures in establishing a separate town, wherein their puritanic ideas of government might be adopted without an amalgamation of sentiment as when under the jurisdiction of Blenheim, which was controlled by the "Schoharie Dutch," (so called).

A petition was forwarded to the Legislature in January, 1803, for the formation of a new town and upon the 12th of the following month an act was passed to that effect and giving to the territory thus set off, the name of Jefferson.

The First Town Meeting was held at the house of Stephen Judd, then an inn, on the 1st day of March and the following officers elected by ballot:—

Supervisor—Ezra Beard.

Clerk—William P. Hilton.

Assessors—James Hubbard, Stephen Judd, Marcus Andrews.

Collector—John P. North.

Overseers of Poor—Stephen Judd, Andrew Beard.

Commissioners of Highways—Joseph P. Northrup, John H. Pratt, Stephen Judd.

Constables—John Fletcher, Joseph P. Northrup, Jacob Jones, Morris Kiff.

Fence Viewers—Lewis M. Loud, Heman Hickok, Stephen Judd, Elam Gibbs, Conrad Snook.

Pound Masters—William P. Hilton, William Carpenter.

Path Masters—Joseph P. Northrup No. 1, Stephen Judd, Isaac Hickok, James Hubbard, Joseph McKinsea, Stephen West, Asa Morse, Zadock Barrett, Benjamin Bruce, John Beach, Heman Hickok, Morris Kiff, Martemus B. VanBuren, James Clark, Charles Near, William P. Hilton.

Several years after, an effort was made by the citizens of a village bearing the name of Jefferson, in the western part of the State, we think, now Watkins, Chemung county, to change the name of this village and postoffice, as mail matter was forwarded to the one office, that was intended for the other, and caused no little trouble. Petitions were sent to the Legislature and Post Office Department from the western village, and counter ones were sent from this place, among which, was one drawn with a map attached, representing the village to be a respectable sized city, with a large park, and various public buildings, proving the western name-sake to be but a little hamlet by the side of it. A long list of petitioners, including male children, accompanied the whole. The case was decided at the Department in Washington, in favor of this place.

Among the early settlers was Heman Hickok, whom it will be seen was a prominent man upon the first ticket elected. He was the first school teacher and a very fine scholar, and took a deep interest in educational affairs. Through his influence the people were aroused at an early date to establish a first class school, which culminated in the Jefferson Academy.

The Jefferson Academy.—The following subscription was drawn by Hickok, and presented to the leading families of the County to raise an amount of money, sufficient to build and establish a school, the year preceding the building, which was commenced in 1812.

"We, whose names are hereunto subscribed for the encouragement of literature, the prosperity of the rising generation, and the good of mankind, do enter into an agreement for the purpose of building an academy, which is to stand near, or on the ground known as the Military Square, in the town of Jefferson, and we do hereby form ourselves into a company, and our subscription is to be signed in shares of twenty-five dollars each, and each share entitled to a vote, and we do bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, to pay to a board of directors, or their agent, the several sums annexed to our names, according to the order or direction of the said board of directors, which irectors shall be chosen by the stockholders

when there are thirty shares subscribed, and there shall not be less than five or more than nine directors, and to hold their offices during the pleasure of the majority of the company; and the directors shall elect out of their number a President; and the president shall have full power to call a meeting of the company, by giving public notice ten days preceding the day of meeting, by an advertisement to be put on the door of the building, and it shall be the duty of the President to call a meeting of the company by a written request of ten of the stockholders.

February 25, 1812.

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|----------|
| Rev. William Salsbury, | 1 share | \$ 25.00 |
| Stephen Judd, | 12 do | 300.00 |
| Erastus Judd, | 4 do | 100.00 |
| Asa Atwood, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Philip A. Koon, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Joseph L. Barnet, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Peter Decker, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Ezra Beard, | 6 do | 150.00 |
| Jacob Jones, | 2 do | 50.00 |
| Marvin Judd, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Edward E. Davis, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Grove Eggleston, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Wm. Hanfield, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| John Daley, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Joseph P. Northrup, | 2 do | 50.00 |
| Augustus Judd, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Aaron Atchinson, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Samuel Baker, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Eph Potter, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Eph Warner, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Benjamin Mony, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Charles Mason, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Demas Judd, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Freegift Patchin, | 1 do | 25.00 ✓ |
| David Wiltne, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Isaac Martin, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Isaac M. Martin, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Abner Bissell, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Jas. and Wm. Stewart, | 1 do | 25.00 |
| Stephen W. Judd, | 1 do | 25.00 |

The building frame was erected in the latter part of 1812, and not having a sum sufficient to finish the structure, a subscription was taken to Schoharie and received the following signa-

tures and the sums set opposite their names were subscribed and paid.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Harmonus Bouck, | 15.75 pd. | \$ 20.00 |
| Wm. C. Bouck, | X | 15.00 |
| Peter Swart, Esq., | 10.00 pd | 12.00 |
| Isaac Marelen, Esq., | X | 5.00 |
| Joseph Borst, Jun., | X | 8.00 |
| John Gebhard, Esq., | X | 5.00 |
| Henry Burke & Co., Esq., | X | 10.00 |
| Henry Hager, Esq., | X | 12.00 |
| Peter H. Hilton, Esq., | X | 5.00 |
| Heman Hickok, Esq., | X | 12.00 |
| Peter Vrooman, Esq., | \$2.00 pd. | 4.00 |
| Michael Borst, Esq., | X | 5.00 |
| Henry Mandel, | | 5.00 |
| Jacob Feek, | | 2.00 |
| Benjamin Miles, | X | 10.00 |
| Abram Keyser, Jun., | X | 2.00 |
| Peter Swart, Esq., | X | 5.00 |
| Jabez W. Throop, | X | 5.00 |
| William Dietz, Esq., | pd | 2.00 |
| George Sherwood, | X | 2.00 |
| Joseph Bouck, | | 3.00 |
| John Hager, 500 feet pine boards, | | 5.00 |
| Daniel Hager, | X | 2.00 |
| Peter N. Javill, | X | 1.00 |
| Peter P. Snyder, | X | 2.00 |
| Jacob Gebhard, | X | 5.00 |
| John Ingold, | X | 10.00 |
| Benjamin Waldren, | X | 2.00 |
| Samuel Southworth, | X | 1.00 |
| John Woolcott, | X | 2.00 |
| Henry Shafer, | X | 1.00 |
| Jonah Hager, | X | 1.00 |
| John Bouck, | X | 1.00 |
| General Adam Vrooman, | | 3.00 |
| Thomas Lawyer, Esq., | X | 10.00 |
| Stephen Lawrence, | X | 3.00 |
| Barthomen Swart, | 32 c pd | 2.00 |
| Isaac Best, Esq., | | 1.00 |
| P. J. House, Esq., | X | 10.00 |
| Asa Starkweather, | X | 2.00 |
| Nicholas Feeck, | X | .50 |
| George Danforth, Esq., | X | 1.00 |
| M. Olover, Esq., | X | 1.00 |
| Mr. Dow, | X | 1.00 |

By degrees the building was erected, and first occupied by a school in 1817, although in the interim the Rev. Wm. Salsbury taught a select

school at his residence. He was also the first Principal of the Academy.

In 1817 Stephen Judd gave a deed of one hundred and eight rods of land, (the present village green) to his brother, William Judd, for the use of the Academy, which, as the writing says, "was intended for the instruction and education of youth in the arts and sciences."

The year previous Stephen Judd also made a will in which he gave to his wife the aforesaid mentioned one hundred and eight rods of land, with others, for her natural life, and after her death to become the property of the directors of the Academy for its support. Upon the 8th of June, 1821, the testator died and the wife became owner of the land and remained so until October, 1835, when she conveyed such land to the "trustees or directors and their successors in office." In November, 1824, Stephen W. Judd, nephew of the testator, petitioned to the Legislature for an act of corporation, "to the end and for the purpose, among other things, that it may take, hold, occupy and possess, the lands aforesaid according to the true intent and meaning of the last will and testament of the testator." The act was passed November 20, 1824, and said that "Marvin Judd, Ezra Beard, Jesse Brockway, Abner Bissell, Aaron Tyler, Jacob Jones, John Daley, Russel G. Beard, and also such other persons as now are, or shall hereafter become members of the society, shall be and are hereby ordained, constituted and declared to be a body corporate and politic, in fact and in name, by the name of the Jefferson Academy."

The building when fully completed, which was about 1822, was forty-five feet square and three stories in height. It cost about four thousand dollars, and stood in front of the present Union school-house. Although the institution was begun under very favorable circumstances, yet it did not seem to prosper. At least, long intermissions would intervene without school, and the building did not receive needed repairs. While the school was in progress it was one of the best, and for those early days well sustained in numbers of scholars. The following list of teachers whom many will remember with the most pleasing associations,

conducted the school from time to time, but in what years we are unable to tell:—

Rev. William Salsbury, a highly educated gentleman.

Ethan Pratt.

Hamilton Van Dyke, 1826.

Thomas McArthur.

R. R. Wells, and Miss — Norton, assistant.

Horatio Waldo and wife.

William Frazier and Miss — Norton assistant.

John Wolcott.

Bennett Boughton.

Adam Craig.

A. Reily.

Samuel Kinney.

Mr. Whittlesey.

Nathaniel Pine and daughter.

Rev. Charles Chapman.

Hale Joseph, or Joseph Hale.

Cornelius Ward.

Charles Smith.

Alfred Higby, and Miss Hotchkiss, assistant.

Miss — Smith.

Mr. Harper.

C. Ward.

Miss Christopher.

Mary Rodgers, the last teacher, whose school closed in May, 1851.

In the will of Stephen Judd it was mentioned that the property should revert to the heirs of his brother, Freeman Judd, when the Academy was not used for school purposes. Joshua H. Judd, a grandson of Freeman, and son of Stephen W. Judd, commenced proceedings against the Jefferson Academy in November, 1851, for the recovery of the property devised for the benefit of the school, on the grounds that the trust imposed upon the trustees had been broken. A heavy suit was the consequence, in which the heir was the victor. An appeal from the decision was made before Hon. A. J. Parker, at the May Circuit Court of 1852, but the decision was affirmed and the old Jefferson Academy became a thing only in name.

In its stead we find one of the most pleasant school buildings in the County, and within, a "Union School," formed in the spring of 1878, that is of the same degree, consisting of two departments under the supervision of first-class

teachers. In front is the one hundred and eight rods of land that Stephen Judd early set off for training grounds and lastly for the Academy site. It is still the property of the Judd heirs, but as long as the villagers use the grounds as a park and they are not put to private use, a promise is given that it will remain as it is. It is the "Yankee feature" of the place, as in most of the villages of the New England States a pleasant green, filled with trees, many prodigious in size, with "branches broad, and shade most cooling" is to be seen, which to the passing stranger denotes liberality.

Among the settlers that came to this town during the years from 1800 to 1812, (and there were many,) was Mrs. Sarah Minor, whose courage under adverse circumstances, led her to perform a task that is worthy of being noticed. Her husband was a truant one, and deserted his family, which numbered many children, leaving no means of support but one cow. They lived in Dutchess county, and finding it useless to undertake to support her family in that old settled section and open a way for their future prosperity, she conceived the idea of taking "her all" and locating in some of the border settlements where land could be bought cheap, and paid for in small installments. She packed her small supply of clothing and started, leading the cow with a rope, and, as the song says, "children came tumbling after." She concluded to settle in the north part of the town, in a log-house that stood upon the place, and being something of a genius as well as perfect with the needle, she gave notice that "Tailoring done to order," would be her avocation. She "cut and fitted" as well as made all the garments for the pioneers of the town for many years, and obtained a sumptuous living. The oldest children were girls, who embraced every opportunity of studying, and made themselves competent to teach school, which at once lightened the mother's labors in supporting the younger children. Each one of the children was early taught economy, and as they advanced in growth and strength, they were carefully put to work, and each grew to man and womanhood and became worthy of their mother's labor and care.

Tanneries.—About the year 1816 a tannery was constructed (but by whom we are unable to say) in the hollow, south of the main street, which, we are told by Mr. B. H. Avery, was purchased by Zodack Pratt, in 1820. The father of our informant, John Avery, then a workman in the proprietor's shop at Prattsville, was sent there to manage the works, which he purchased in a few years and continued the business until the year 1845.

Another establishment of the kind was in operation, during the same years, farther down the stream and conducted by Eli Jones, who was succeeded by his brother Chauncy, until about 1846, when that enterprise also faded from existence.

First Presbyterian Church of Jefferson.—It must not be thought that the strict Yankees of this town failed in establishing, upon their advent here, churches, stores and other marks of civilization and conveniences, that have ever been indispensable to a true Yankee life.

Preaching was performed by ministers sent by the Presbytery for several years, and after the usual preliminaries in the formation of a society, the people congregated and caused the following to be entered upon their records.

“At a meeting regularly warned in the town of Jefferson, for the purpose of ascertaining people's minds and views as to the formation of a church among them, and the meeting being opened by a solemn address to the Throne of Grace, the following persons whose names are underwritten, presented themselves for examination, viz:—

Thomas Merchant,
Reuben Foot,
Nathaniel Merrill,
Joseph P. Northrup,
William Judd,
John Turner,
Mary Merrill,
Sarah Judd,
Rachel Atwood,
Sabra Agard,
Bethiah Baker,
Mary Wilson,
Hannah Baker,

Nancy Baker,
Phebe Hurlburt,
Siene Foot,
Sally Atwood,
Sylvia Foot,
Judith Turner.

The above were organized and pronounced a regular church of Christ, by Rev. Stephen Fenn and Rev. William Bull, on the 25th of June, 1809.

The following have officiated as regular pastors, and present a list of accomplished scholars that have from time to time attracted the attention of the public by their masterly sermons.

William Salsbury, settled as the resident pastor in 1810, and closed his services March 7, 1830.

He was followed by Rev. Stephen Fenn, in the latter year, who died suddenly on the 26th of September, 1833, leaving the society without a pastor, until 1835.

William Frasier, A. M., then was called and continued five years. It was during his term that the church edifice was burned which was built about the year 1811. The building stood upon the green in front of the present site. Through Rev. Frasier's business tact the present substantial structure was built in the years 1836 and 1837. During the interim, services were held in the Academy.

Nearly one year elapsed after the close of Frasier's pastoral duties, before another was settled, for the reason that the society were waiting for Rev. Salsbury, who had endeared himself to the people, to again become their leader. He officiated from 1841 to 1849.

He was succeeded by Wm. J. McCord, in 1851, who remained four years.

Rev. Phineas Robinson came in 1857 and closed in 1859, which left the church without a settled minister until 1862.

A. S. Beard then was called and remained two years. During the space of time from the going and coming of the pastors, the pulpit was supplied nearly every Sabbath by students and retired ministers, under orders of the Presbytery.

Four years passed after Rev. Beard left, before a resident preacher was settled, in whom was

found Rev. A. Montgomery, who remained to the year 1872.

He was immediately followed by Rev P. I. Abbott.

Upon the close of the latter gentleman's services in 1875, Josiah Markle followed in the same year and closed in 1878.

Two years passed, in which time, several occupied the pulpit, among whom was Irving White, a student, when the present pastor, David Heron, located.

Merchants.—The first store was kept in a log house, but by whom is not known. Abner Bissell commenced the business about the year 1812, and was soon followed by one Schoelar, who was succeeded by Hezekiah Watson in 1825, who kept a general assortment of goods up to the year 1855, and identified himself with the best interests of the place. During the time Watson was in business, one Lyon was in trade, and Joseph Crane and E. B. Fenn formed a co-partnership which changed to "Crane & Pratt." Adam P. Mattice established a trade and associated Henry P. Mattice with him, and conducted a successful business for several years. G. W. Childs also embarked and soon connected himself with B. H. Avery, under the firm of Childs & Avery. After two years of such connection passed, Avery withdrew and soon formed the firm of B. H. & H. Avery, while Childs continued the business alone, for a while and failed.

At that time Charles Twitchel and W. S. Jones became associated and were soon followed by "Rugg & Merchant," who changed the firm to J. H. & B. B. Merchant.

Twitchel & Jones dissolved, and Jones continued the business alone for some time. The Avery firm also broke connection and B. H. Avery and Jones became partners, which was changed at the expiration of three years by Jones withdrawing and Avery stemming the tide alone, which he did successfully for many years, when his son William B. relieved the father and connected himself with T. O. Burnett. Young Avery died shortly after, and his place was taken by a brother, Benjamin H. Avery who purchased Burnett's interest, and conducted the business alone as at the present time. Af-

ter the dissolution of Avery & Jones, the latter set up in trade alone, which he continues at the present time, with a general assortment of goods such as are usually found in a country store. The firm of J. H. & B. B. Merchant discontinued business and one was formed under the name of "Stevens & Shafer," and drifted to a "Union store"—about the year 1855 or '56—under the management of G. W. Childs. Not proving, as others of the kind, a successful enterprise, Childs purchased the stock in trade and formed the firm of "Childs & Olmstead," which was succeeded by the present substantial business manager, Ezra Mitchell. There may have been, from time to time, transient tradesmen whom we have not noticed, but the foregoing have been the leading merchants of the town, among whom, by consulting the civil list, will be found representative men, whose qualifications proved them to be inferior to none, as public officials, and worthy recipients of the confidence placed in them by the people, as well as of the educational advantages founded by the early settlers.

Physicians.—We do not know for a certainty who the first physician of the town was, but as far back as 1816 we are creditably informed, Dr. Davis and Dr. Burton were in practice, and were followed shortly after that date by Dr. Teunis Cooper. Eli Boice settled in 1820, and remained until 1854, when he removed to Warnerville, where he died in 1857. Drs. Alexander White and William A. Laurens came in 1850 or a short time before, and were succeeded by Drs. Flint and Watson, the latter of Fultonham. A. A. Wood purchased the practice of Laurens in 1864, who in that year was made a contemporary of J. D. Havens, who located here. The present practicing physician, Dr. R. Grant Havens, came the year after, and was followed by J. R. Mathew in 1872, who remained to the year 1874, when Dr. Bartlett followed. The latter soon removed to give place to Dr. R. Hubbell, who came in 1878 and still remains. Of the preceding list, Dr. Cooper was in practice the greatest number of years, having kept in the field until 1872, when he died at an advanced age. The Doctor when at the age of seventy-five met with an accident that deprived him of an arm, which it was feared

would prove fatal, having arrived at an age when the bones become brittle and obstinate in healing. Upon the 4th of July, 1865, a celebration was held in the village and a cannon was used upon the occasion, in front of which the Doctor passed as it was discharged. Having his arm thrown out, the gun's charge took it off below the elbow. Dr. J. D. Havens performed the amputation and it proved successful, as the stump became as sound as upon younger persons. We cannot pass on without referring to Dr. J. D. Havens, whose struggles in the profession were dampened by ill health and its chilling adversities. He was born in this town in 1834 and studied medicine and surgery in the office of Dr. Alden March, of Albany, and graduated at the Albany Medical School in 1861. He located at Albany and removed to Jefferson in 1865, from whence he again settled in Blenheim, where he was taken sick and closed his life on the 14th of February, 1875, in the forty-first year of his age. But few young practitioners possessed the medical skill of Dr. Havens, and had he lived in the enjoyment of health, few would have been his superiors in the profession.

The Judd Family,—There were five brothers bearing that name who settled in this town, namely, Stephen, Freeman, Thomas, Erastus, and Eben, beside a cousin, Marvin Judd, who became one of the prominent men of the County. The family previously came from New England, and a few of them settled in the present town of Harpersfield, years before they located here. Stephen, familiarly known as Cal Judd, for many years kept an "inn" at that place and became a large landholder, when he removed to this place and became the "lord" of the settlement. His brother, Freeman, as the story is told, was a peculiar personage, and undoubtedly half-crazed, and spent a goodly portion of his time in wandering around making pretensions of skill in various trades, especially in carpentry, also as a preacher, taking the book of Revelations as the foundation of his remarks, referring particularly to the "horses and their riders." We are told that he claimed to be the first white traveler in the neighborhood of the village, unless it be those that ac-

companied the Indians from and to the valleys of the Schoharie and Susquehanna during the war. He claimed he passed the first night beneath a hemlock tree that stood upon the farm, later purchased by his brother Stephen. "Uncle Free," as everybody called him, says the manuscript of Peter R. Dyckman, a gentleman who has made himself familiar with the early history of the town, used to measure timber for building by pacing, and using a hatchet to mark when he wished a mortise made, saying "make a mortise somewhere hereabouts." In some of his wanderings in a western county he built what was called a saw-mill. Some time after visiting that section, a farmer overtook "Free" and invited him to ride. Being strangers to each other and in the vicinity of the mill Uncle Free asked "how does the mill go?" The man replied not knowing with whom he was talking, "It goes, *curse my Maker, curse my Maker*—c-u-r-s-e m-y m-a-k-e-r." "Aye," replied Free, "then it remembers its maker yet?" Taking the original Judd settlers together, very few families possess the ability and energy that they displayed, and still less that make as proper use of them.

There is a tradition in the family that Daniel Judd, an elder brother of Colonel Stephen's, was murdered by the Indians during the Revolution, and they carried his head to Canada upon a pole.

The Jefferson Working Lodge No. 554, was instituted in June, 1864, and chartered the same month, 1865 with ten members, and is one of the active lodges of the County, numbering at the present time sixty members. Soon after its organization, a large building was erected for lodge purposes, but the expenditure being too great for the society to overcome, the property was sold, and has since been rented by the order in connection with that of the G. A. R.

The charter members were :—

O. D. Young,
L. H. Brewster,
S. L. Curtis,
S. L. Mayham,
Aaron Stevens,
David Stevens,

Chas. Beard,
E. G. Brockway,
Joseph Merchant,
John Stevens.

G. A. R.—This organization was formed December 10, 1879, and named *Tyler Post* No. 131, in honor of a townsman that laid his life upon the "altar of his country." The charter members were :—

Rev. C. H. Travis,
William Kennedy,
P. S. Tabor,
Robert Veley,
Benjamin Reynold,
John Lambert,
Edward Bruce,
George W. Evans,
Joseph S. Perry,
Isaac P. Nichols,
Wesley Spoor.

CHURCHES.—*The Methodist Episcopal Church of West Jefferson* is the oldest organization in the town, being formed in the fall of 1800, by "circuit riders" as traveling preachers were called. Services were held in private houses and the forest, until 1816, when a special house for worship was erected, but for many years was not lathed or plastered. The means of warming dwellings at that time was by fire-places, and not deeming it safe, the settlers' ingenuity was taxed to provide other means. An old potash kettle was obtained and set in masonry, inverted and a hole pierced through the bottom from which a stove pipe of their own invention and make, protruded, and formed a convenience similar to the modern box-stove. In 1850, the old house was deserted and the present one occupied, being built in that year.

The First Methodist Episcopal Society.—Through the kindness of Mr. Frank A. Galt and Mr. A. W. Clark, we present the following in regard to the First Methodist Episcopal Society and others of this section :—

The First Methodist Episcopal Society was organized in 1800 at West Jefferson, with about twelve names. The first pastors were Zenas Covell and Daniel Ireland. The house of worship was erected in 1817.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Jefferson Village was organized in 1819, with thirteen members. Two years later the Jefferson Circuit was formed, this being set off from the Sharon Circuit. The following named places were included in the circuit, but have since been made into separate charges, viz:—

Hunter,
Lexington,
East Jewett,
Windham,
Ashland,
Prattsville,
Gilboa,
Livingstonville,
North Blenheim,
Jefferson,
Stamford,
Summit,
Eminence, etc.

The present appointments are Jefferson, West Jefferson, and North Harpersfield, the oldest being West Jefferson, the pioneer church of this section.

The first church which was built in 1844, was removed to the present location in 1859, and reconstructed in 1869, at a cost of \$2,000. The church property is valued at \$6,000. The present membership is one hundred and forty-eight.

Pastors since separate organization :—

- 1821—John Bangs and Henry Ames.
- 1822—John Bangs and Roswell Kelley.
- 1823—Jesse Pomeroy, Quartus Stewart and C. Pomeroy.
- 1824—Daniel J. Wright and Quartus Stewart.
- 1825—Daniel J. Wright and John Wait.
- 1826—Friend W. Smith, D. Poor and John Finnegan.
- 1827—Cyrus Silleman, Alexander Calder and John Finnegan.
- 1828—Alexander Calder, Philo Ferris and John Finnegan.
- 1829—Philo Ferris and John Bangs.
- 1830—Eli Dennison and Paul R. Bronson.
- 1831—Eli Dennison and Paul R. Bronson.
- 1832—Harvey Brown.
- 1833—Harvey Brown.
- 1834—Desivignia Starks and John Bangs.

- 1835—Elbert Osborne, John Bangs and R. H. Bloomer.
- 1836—Philip L. Hoyt and J. D. Bouton.
- 1837—John Carver and Olif G. Hedstrom.
- 1838—John Carver, Olif G. Hedstrom.
- 1839—Aaron Rogers, Arad Lakin.
- 1840—Aaron Rogers, Arad Lakin.
- 1841—Reuben H. Bloomer, Daniel Bullock.
- 1842—Daniel Bullock.
- 1843—Eben S. Hibbard, W. F. Gould.
- 1844—Eben S. Hibbard, Amos N. Mulnix.
- 1845—Addi Lee and John Bangs.
- 1846—Jason Wells.
- 1847—Jason Wells, Orrin P. Matthews.
- 1848—William Lull and Ezra S. Cook.
- 1849—William B. Mitchell, Milo Couchman.
- 1850—William B. Mitchell.
- 1851—Edward S. Stout, James W. Smith.
- 1852—Russell S. Scott, James W. Smith.
- 1853—Zepaniah D. Scoby.
- 1854—Orrin P. Matthews.
- 1855—Orrin P. Matthews.
- 1856—Asahel M. Hough.
- 1857—Asahel M. Hough.
- 1858—Noble Lovett.
- 1859—John F. Richmond, Noble Lovett, superannuated.
- 1860—John F. Richmond, Noble Lovett, superannuated.
- 1861—Charles Palmer.
- 1862—W. V. O. Brainard.
- 1863—W. V. O. Brainard.
- 1864—Orrin P. Dales.
- 1865—Orrin P. Dales.
- 1866—Edwin P. Pierce.
- 1867—Edwin P. Pierce.
- 1868—J. P. Burger.
- 1869—J. P. Burger.
- 1870—J. P. Burger.
- 1871—William D. Fiero.
- 1872—William D. Fiero.
- 1873—George Woodruff.
- 1874—George Woodruff.
- 1875—Lorenzo G. Niles.
- 1876—Lorenzo G. Niles.
- 1877—Lorenzo G. Niles.
- 1878—C. H. Travis.
- 1879—C. H. Travis.
- 1880—C. H. Travis.
- 1881—William Blake.

The Presiding Elders since the organization of the Prattsville District are :—

- 1853—Seymour Van Dusen.
- 1854—Seymour Van Dusen.
- 1855—Jarvis Y. Nichols.
- 1856—John R. Beach.
- 1857—John R. Beach.
- 1858—John R. Beach.
- 1859—John R. Beach.
- 1860—Paul R. Brown.
- 1861—Paul R. Brown.
- 1862—Paul R. Brown.
- 1863—Paul R. Brown.
- 1864—William Goss.
- 1865—William Goss.
- 1866—William Goss.
- 1867—William Goss.
- 1868—Thomas W. Chadwick.
- 1869—Thomas W. Chadwick.
- 1870—Thomas W. Chadwick.
- 1871—Thomas W. Chadwick.
- 1872—Aaron R. Sanford.
- 1873—Aaron K. Sanford.
- 1874—Aaron K. Sanford.
- 1875—Aaron K. Sanford.
- 1876—John E. Gorse.
- 1877—John E. Gorse.
- 1878—John E. Gorse.
- 1879—John E. Gorse.
- 1880—Lucius H. King.
- 1881—Lucius H. King.

The West Kill Methodist Church.—A class was formed in 1816, as a branch of the above church, and called The West Kill Methodist Episcopal church, under the preaching of Rev. Arnold Scofield, and held their meetings in private houses and the school house until 1854, when the present edifice was erected. The same clergyman, who was assisted in his pastoral labors by Rev. N. Bice, formed the Methodist church of Jefferson village, as before stated, in 1819.

At a later date, as the country became more settled and for the convenience of residents that usually attended church service on foot for miles, each Sabbath, the neighborhood of Morseville in the northern part of the town organized a class as the "Methodist Episcopal Church of Morseville," under the labors of Rev. Harvey

Brown. The organization was effected some time in 1832, and during the following year a house of worship was begun and made ready for occupancy in 1834, at a cost of nearly \$1,200.

Revolutionary Incidents.—During the Revolution, there was not a single civilized white residence within the present territory of the town. But a short distance from the county line, in what is now called "Smith street," was located a family by the name of Clawson, upon lands now owned in part by Henry Van Buren, Edward Dayton and Charles Lamb. Clawson made himself obnoxious as an inveterate Tory. It was at his house, that Patchin and his brother captives were taken, as intimated in his narrative, elsewhere in this work. The prisoners were jeered at by two buxom daughters of Clawson's who fancied they would be pleased to relieve them of their checkered lives, and insisted upon Brant's permission to allow them the honor. One of the prisoners named Chris John Richtmyer, escaped the following night and returned to the Schoharie valley and reported the events of that day, when a squad of scouts made the "affable" family a visit and "cleaned the house." At the close of the war the property was sold under the confiscation act and we believe was purchased by the Smith family. If not, it soon came in that family's possession and gave the name of "Smith Street" to the settlement.

The sugar bush in which the captives were at work when taken, was but a short distance to the southeast.

Skirmish with Tories and Indians.—It was upon the banks of the small lake on the south border of the town that Captain Hager with his militia force, and Captain Hale with a few eastern troops, overtook the Tory Cryser and his party that murdered Isaac Vroman near the upper fort. This skirmish was the only one which occurred during the war that was disgraceful on the part of the patriots within the borders of our County. And much to our regret, it occurred under the command of the best officer here in service. The enemy was overtaken early in the morning, a short distance from their encampment, but not without being apprised of the patriots' approach. They had stationed themselves upon the brow of a knoll and

formed a half circle, in the center of which Captain Hager and force were expected to march; but bearing to the left, he came in front of their right line, when they sent a volley of bullets that would have done fatal work had they not been fired too high. Captain Hager instantly saw the enemy's position and ordered Captain Hale to flank to the right and charge, which would have turned the enemy's left, as they had not time to re-load and perhaps did not intend to, but retreat. Instead of obeying orders, being in the rear of Hager's company, Hale turned to the left (which brought him out of the range of the Indians' position) and made a retreat. The Indians saw the opportunity and quickly reloaded, but the keen eye of Hager saw his dangerous position, and he ordered his men to drop as the Indians fired the second time, but two of the brave patriots fell, not divining the order quick enough. Hager ordered a retreat as the circle began to draw around them, and overtook Hale some distance below, and then made a great mistake in not ridding earth and the cause of freedom, of an inveterate coward. Getting in front of them he was ordered to halt, (and undoubtedly German invectives were pretty freely used in reprimanding the villain,) and to renew the charge. Without waiting to form in order, Hale carelessly turned about and would have marched into the jaws of death with his force, had not Hager seen the sprig's incompetency and ordered him back. It was thought that Hale was incapacitated to act through fear. The patriots' force was formed in line at the camping grounds, (as they expected the Indians saw their approach, retired to gain a position for defense,) and marched cautiously along the trail, but were fired upon unexpectedly; which frightened the young captain out of his wits if he ever had any. The patriots came together as ordered by Hager, and were consulting as to the next movement, when the crackling of dry sticks and rustling of disturbed leaves drew the attention of the party to the back trail, when the presence of Colonel Vroman with a force of nearly fifty men infused cheer in their hearts.

A pursuit was decided upon, but the enemy could not be found. They had taken to the forest and eluded the search of the patriots.

After spending nearly the day in the vicinity, the force numbering about one hundred and twenty men according to historian Simms, returned to the upper fort with solemn tread, as two of their brave companions, Joachim Van Valkenburgh and James Sackett, were lifeless and bleeding corpses, the former of whom was known as one of Schoharie's bravest scouts. The facts relating to that engagement were taken from one Richtmyer and Pollock, who participated, and were kept in manuscript, which we are assured is a genuine statement of the affair.

OFFICIAL.

Justices.—The first justice of the peace elected by the people at their annual town meeting was John Avery, in the spring of 1833. At that time there were eighty-six persons in the town "liable" as the records say, to serve as petit jurors.

From the well kept records we have drawn the names of the supervisors that have served, with the date of service, which are as follows:—

1803—Ezra Beard.
 1804—Stephen Judd.
 1805—Heman Hickok.
 1806— do
 1807— do
 1808— do
 1809— do
 1810— do
 1811— do
 1812— do
 1813—Marcus Andrews.
 1814—Marvin Judd.
 1815— do
 1816—Abner Bissell.
 1817—Ezra Beard.
 1818— do
 1819— do
 1820—Marvin Judd.
 1821—Abner Bissell.
 1822—Marvin Judd.
 1823— do
 1824—John Daley.
 1825— do
 1826—Isaac Buckingham.
 1827— do
 1828—John Daley.

1829—Enos Minor.
 1830— do
 1831—Benjamin Bruce.
 1832— do
 1833—Hiram Judd.
 1834—Ezekiel Gallup.
 1835—Benjamin Hickok.
 1836— do
 1837—Samuel E. Turner.
 1838— do
 1839—Ezekiel Gallup.
 1840—Hezekiah Watson.
 1841—Levi Gallup, Jr.
 1842— do
 1843—Asahel Cowley.
 1844—David P. Stevens.
 1845— do
 1846—Levi Gallup, Jr.
 1847— do
 1848—Clark Franklin.
 1849—Alfred S. White.
 1850—David Young.
 1851—Samuel R. Griggs.
 1852—Jesse Brockway.
 1853—Benjamin Smith.
 1854—John Ruland.
 1855—David W. Gallup.
 1856—David Young.
 1857—Alfred S. White.
 1858— do
 1859—Elijah Danforth.
 1860—Beriah H. Avery.
 1861—William A. Loughran.
 1862—James T. Treadwell.
 1863—William A. Loughran.
 1864—John W. Gibbs.
 1865—William S. Jones.
 1866—George Mattice.
 1867— do
 1868—Charles Mayham.
 1869—George Mattice.
 1870—Charles Mayham.
 1871—Stephen J. Tyler.
 1872— do
 1873—Charles Mayham.
 1874—Beriah H. Avery.
 1875—Ezra Twitchell.
 1876— do
 1877—William S. Jones.
 1878— do

- 1879—William S. Jones.
 1880—Ezra Twitchell.
 1881—do
 1882—Moses W. Wilcox.

Ezra Twitchell resigned in 1881. The town was not represented at the annual meeting of the board. Moses W. Wilcox was appointed to fill vacancy and elected in the spring of 1882.

The surface of the town is uneven, broken principally by the West-kill, the outlet of Summit lake and a tributary of the Schoharie. Along this stream the Aborigines early formed a trail to reach the lake and Charlotte. During the Revolution it was frequently traversed by them with captives, while at other times the Harpersfield course was taken to reach the Susquehanna. The sheet of water lying upon the south line still bears the Indian name Utsyantha, and we trust a name will never be thought of that will be considered more appropriate. At some point upon the northwest bank an angle was made in the Colonial line between old Tryon and Albany counties. The line ran from the northeast corner of Old Dorlach patent in Carlisle to this point, giving the western part of the town to Tryon and the eastern to Albany.

During the Southern Rebellion this town sent a large number of volunteers, and was prompt in filling its quota by bounty at each call for men by the President, and in contributing necessary articles for the comfort of the "Boys in Blue."

The amount of bonds issued for bounty purposes during the war, as near as can be ascertained, was \$29,811.39.

The limits of this town have only been defined by the act of 1813, and are as follows:—

"And all that part of the said County of Schoharie, beginning at a point in the northern bounds of Elenheim patent in the east line of the third range of lots in said patent, and running thence along the northerly bounds of said patent to the northwest corner thereof, thence continuing the same line to the bounds of the County, thence along the same southerly and

easterly, until it intersects a line running southerly from the place of beginning, between the third and fourth ranges of said lots, thence northerly along the said line so intersected to the place of beginning, shall be and continue a town by the name of Jefferson."

CHAPTER XI.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF SUMMIT.

BEAUTY OF SCENERY—SIGNAL STATION—WEATHER SIGNAL—HON. SEYMOUR DOUGHTON—TRADITION OF THE LAKE—JOHNSON AND BRANT'S HUNT—EARLY SETTLERS—BROWN AND OTHER BUSINESS MEN—CHARLOTTE VALLEY—SERVICE TRAGEDY—MURPHY'S OWN STATEMENT—MURPHY'S PURCHASE—ACT OF 1777—CONTROVERSY IN REGARD TO THE SERVICE FARM—ABRAHAM BECKER—SUIT GAINED—SERVICE'S AFFAIR CONTEMPLATED—SETTLEMENT OF THE WESTERN PART OF THE TOWN—SEMINARY—ITS HISTORY—FACULTY ETC.—DAIRY INTEREST—ELISHA BROWN—ASSEMBLYMEN—SHERIFFS—JOHN LAWYER—S. J. LAKE—ISAAC W. BEARD—JOHN H. COONS—CHURCHES—FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH—REFORMED CHURCH OF EMINENCE—METHODIST—FREE METHODIST—LUTHERAN OF LUTHERANVILLE—LUTHERAN OF BEARD'S HOLLOW—TOWN VOLUNTEERS—MEDICAL FRATERNITY—FIRST TOWN MEETING—RESOLUTIONS—REPORT OF 1880—OFFICIALS—EMINENCE.

IN reaching a point on the road from Richmondville to Summit village, the traveler may form an idea of the origin of the name given to the town by looking down upon the surrounding country that stretches a panorama of beauty and grandeur—before the eye, scarcely equalled. And when he ascends Mount Wharton, a little to the west, and gains the height

of twenty-two hundred feet above sea level, the hills in the distance, that seemed of prodigious heights and precipitous sides, as traversed, appear to be miniature ones, of easy ascent, placed where they stand as obstacles, to vary the scene. Even the peak of Karker Mountain of Carlisle, from which, it was thought by the early settlers, nearly half of the hemisphere could be seen, vainly rears itself, like a small cone far below. The state surveying party under Horatio Seymour Jun., in the summer of 1880, placed a *Stan Helio* signal upon this mountain, and gave it the name of Mount Wharton, after the owner of the land—J. B. Wharton.

Here, the clouds which to-day, seem to be at as great height above us, as when we stand in the valley below, often rest upon this mountain as a hazy veil, shutting from view its venerable peak, to those in the valleys below, who often catch a glimpse of it, to prophesy the future weather in the absence—perhaps of a barometer or Webster's Almanac, as tradition has told them, the appearance of the peak will tell with as much accuracy as that renowned pamphlet. Upon the very cheek of this mountain, in a little furrow, is found one of those sheets of water, whose beauty makes it a libel to call a pond, and which is too small in acreage, to claim that of lake.

Pleasure and health seekers have found rare sport here in fishing and rowing seasons, as the water is kept lively by the finny tribe, and pleasure boats have been placed upon the silvery sheet, which add much to the attraction of the place; as to "dip the oar" has a peculiar fascination by which but very few refuse to be allured.

Our earliest recollection of this resort, is, when but a youth, we sat beside the late "Squire" Boughton, and vainly tried to force the obstinate "bullheads" to bite after our patience was exhausted in coaxing, while he, with ease and grace swung out and lured the largest to his well-filled basket.

The Squire's inward chuckle occasionally found vent, and upon one of those (to us) mortifying times, his boast rang out long and loud, that his basket would hold no more. But not content, he swung out again and his successful hook,

fearful, perhaps, it could do no better, caught the handle of the basket, and to the joy of our crushed feelings, basket and fish were thrown rods from the shore and disappeared to the bottom, while the Squire, without a word, sought his home.

Seymour Boughton was a venerable man. He removed to this place from Charlotteville, and represented the town in the Board of Supervisors in 1833-'34-'36 and '53, and the western district in the Assembly in the years 1840 and '45. Serving many years as Justice of the Peace and desirous of being competent to perform the duties of the office intelligently, he studied law earnestly, and became quite proficient in trying civil cases, after his term of office expired. Many cases were hotly contested by the Squire and his neighbor, Thomas W. Furguson, whose legal ability was nearly the same, which produced a vast amount of fun, and attracted large crowds to witness.

Mr. Boughton was a thorough business man, to whom one quickly became attached by his whole-souled hospitality and gentlemanly bearing. He was the youngest of nineteen children and removed with his father, Shubel Boughton, from Danbury, Connecticut, in the early part of the century, and settled at Charlotteville. The Squire built the present Van Buren house of that village as a "tavern" and was engaged in the business many years. All the houses of that day in this section, were built of logs and upon putting up a frame building the Squire was censured as being extravagant, and when he painted the same, his economical neighbors imagined he was bent on wasting his property. He ground the paint in a potash kettle with a large iron ball, and applied it to the building himself. It was the first framed house in the present territory of the town. Mr. Boughton died on the 11th day of June, 1872, at the age of eighty-one, leaving but two sons Harvey and Seymour Jun., to perpetuate his family name.

In referring to Mr. Furguson, in connection with Mr. Boughton's legal career, we are led to here state that the former, although not enjoying the advantages of the latter in an official point of view, was an apt adept in pettyfogging, and gave the legal fraternity many warm receptions.

The family removed to this place from Cortland county, N. Y., at an early day, and were intelligent and progressive citizens.

Tradition of the Lake.—In turning our thoughts to the lake, which seems characteristic of all visitors at this place, an old legend is recalled that refers to the name of the body of water. It is indeed, not only a "thrice told tale" but a thousand, and in giving its substance we exceedingly regret that we do not possess that romance, which gives color and effect to the tale to make it interesting and impressive. It is said that *Utsayantho* was the name given to the miniature sheet, after an unfortunate Indian maiden, "whose untutored mind" was suddenly surprised at the disappearance of her "family cares." At a time anterior to the advent of the whites, that maiden with stalwart frame and uncombed hair, through indiscretion, became a mother, upon the bank of the lake. A consultation of the several chiefs was held and the little innocent was thrown into the lake, which received the mother's name by order of the godly chiefs.

Such is the simple narrative. The lake upon the southern border of the County, and head of the west branch of the Delaware river, is spoken of in old maps and documents as *Utsayantha*, while this one is not referred to; at least, not by the name of *Utsayantho*. Whether, in the Indian tongue the two words are the same, we are unable to say. For a long time it was called "Jack's lake" but owing to its elevation and the town to which it belongs it is well for the plain to give it the appropriate name of "Summit Lake;" while our modern "esthetes" now call it "Utsayantho" for the benefit of romance, and imagine Utsayantho, or the Jefferson lake, was named after the maiden's treacherous lover. Its outlet flows to the south and empties into the "West Kill," in the town of Jefferson. An Indian path from the Charlotte, led to the lake and followed its outlet to the Schoharie creek, along which the Indian traversed for time unknown. Upon the banks of the Summit lake, tradition tells us, Johnson and Brant halted, in their march in 1780, to devastate the Schoharie valley. As they appeared at Breakabeen early in the morning of October 17th, undoubtedly they

were here upon the 16th, and enjoyed a repast of fresh fish, to strengthen them for the occasion.

It was not until after the Revolution closed that this town was settled, and the eastern part a few years later than the western. Those settlers were mostly from the Hudson river counties and the eastern States, verifying the truth, that while the Germans and Dutch choose the low lands, the Yankee climbs upon the hills, and "pitches his tent." One of the early settlers of this locality, was a Mr. Brown, from Connecticut; who, while in his native town engaged in the manufacture of buttons. He was a shrewd business Yankee and turned his mind and hand to everything that had a tendency to gain money, and was called "Button Weaver Brown." In all local legal troubles he officiated as a pettifogger and business man, which gave to him a precedence in note, over other settlers. He died at an early day and left in his stead, a son Harvey, who engaged in the mercantile business and was for many years Justice of the Peace, beside being a Captain in the Militia service. Dexter Brown, of another family, built a log house and kept the first "tavern," in which all law suits were held for many years, beside giving "entertainment for man and beast" that strolled up the hills to replenish their stock of liquors. It must not be thought that those early settlers were content to delve daily among giant tree-stumps and stones without any other means of support, as they were too "Yankeeified." On the contrary, they engaged in other pursuits, such as making potash and whiskey. Who the first distiller was we are unable to learn, but Levi Ives did a large business in that branch as early as 1805. His customers were scattered over the country and drove the establishment to its utmost capacity, to meet their wants. An order from "Yankee Pete" Snyder was taken to Ives by his son, in 1812 for a "load of his best whiskey" at two shillings per gallon.

After Ives, followed Henry Risenbark in the business, who came from Columbia county in 1802. His son Hiram is still living, having passed three score years and ten, bearing the marks of a scald from hot mash, while manufacturing "fire water." Benjamin Rider soon followed

Brown in the inn business, upon the grounds now occupied by "Rider's Hotel." The first building was partly of logs and partly frame, the latter giving the establishment a superiority over Brown's.

As the country became more thickly settled and business more brisk, the times demanded better accommodations, and from time to time the old log houses have disappeared and others at greater cost and convenience have taken their places. About the year 1840 a tavern was built upon the hill, in the west part of the village by — Warner, and afterwards purchased by Wm. T. Moak, of Sharon, who continued until the year 1854, when the property changed hands, and was soon transformed into a private residence, and at a later date divided and partly removed.

The Charlotte Valley.—A short distance to the west of the village of Summit is a spring from which the Charlotte river proper takes its rise. Along its course several rivulets unite and form one of the main tributaries of the noble Susquehanna. The ancient Indian path to the Susquehanna from the Hudson and Schoharie rivers followed this stream and during the Revolution many hundred hearts, laden with the deepest sorrow, were forced to follow it as captives, on their journey to Niagara and Canada, not knowing but each moment they would fall victims to the savages' cupidity or Tories' vengeance and knowing that each step was drawing them nearer and nearer the dreaded gauntlet and confinement.

Nearly four miles down the valley from the County line, upon the farm, in part owned by Philip Mitchel, lived the man Service, against whom the patriots made the charge of being an agent of the Crown, and a dangerous enemy to the colonists. Service, with other families, settled there several years previous to the war, and were prosperous farmers.

He owned a large tract of land, and when hostilities commenced he refused to take sides in the contest, fearful of losing his lands. The outspoken Whigs accused him of disloyalty to their cause, and a complaint to that effect was made by them to the Committee of Safety, sitting at Kingston, also to that of the Schoharie set-

tlements. The British agents knew his intention of neutrality and undoubtedly imposed certain offices upon him to give a shade of loyalty to the crown. Being situated upon the trail, almost daily used, and at a point, where supplies for the subsistence of squads would prove convenient, he was called upon quite often to furnish them, by both the British and Patriots.

But each faction was, as political parties are to-day, "delicate to a fault" and he, who by a single act or word, however trivial, displayed the least favor to their enemies, was at once condemned, and scarcely any after act could atone for so doing.

An order was given for his arrest and Captain Long, Murphy, Elerson and Tufts were entrusted to carry it into execution. Various stories have been related of the affair and published from time to time, but none of them were dictated by Murphy or his companions, and were simply reiterations of gossip subject to the usual additions that the imagination of the speaker and writer is disposed to make for the pleasure of his auditors. As we before intimated, Sigsby's pamphlet purporting to be the life of Murphy, was made up of erroneous statements, without doubt, *supposed* to be facts by the writer. Our informants, the children of Murphy, with minds as vigorous, at their advanced ages, as if but forty, assured the author that their father felt aggrieved at the erroneous tales that were related of him, and many hundred times repeated the facts of the Charlotte tragedy to them, as we are about to relate them.

To verify their statement, we have abundant proof, gleaned from other families that were daily conversant with both Murphy and Elerson, of their truthfulness. Upon the arrival of the party at the house of Service, they at once made the object of their visit known, as he was standing beside his door. Service replied that the accusation was ill-founded and refused to accompany them to Schoharie. They produced a letter written to him that had been intercepted (it being an order for Service to provide a party of Tories with bread upon a certain day,) to prove his disloyalty to the Continental cause, and then assured him if he would give himself up and accompany

hem to Schoharie without any trouble, they would pledge themselves he would not be hurt. But their orders were to take him dead or alive, and they were going to do it. A parley of words followed, when Mrs. Service and two daughters rushed out and took an active part. Service caught up a broad-axe lying near and hurled it at the party who assured him they would shoot if he repeated the act. The women undoubtedly became fearful of such consequence, and caught hold of the men and exclaimed, "Run, father! Run father!" upon which he ran around the corner of the house towards the brook. Tufts and Murphy soon followed, and when in clear view of him assured him they would shoot if he did not return. Not heeding their warning, as he crossed the brook and was ascending the bank, Murphy and Tufts fired together, upon which he fell and soon expired. They did not examine the body to see if both balls took effect, and consequently could not tell whether one or both caused his death. The case as thus recited, is very different from that of Sigsby's and others, as will be at once seen by those readers that are familiar with his pamphlet. As told by him, the shooting of Service was but a cool murder, which in this day and age is condemned, and not considered as adding heroism to our acts. Mr. Sigsby was a young man of promise, with intentions the most commendable, and chronicled the case as related by hundreds, but was imposed upon by many-tongued tradition in his efforts to perpetuate the valor of a worthy patriot.

In the year 1787, the lands of Service were confiscated and the property passed into other hands. It has been said and the impression seems to be firmly made, that Murphy received a portion of those lands for the shooting of Service, but it was a mistake. Murphy purchased a farm in after years in the Schenevus valley but it was not a part of the Service land. It will be noticed in the Fulton Chapter of this work that Murphy married a Feek, an only child, and that the family were in fair circumstances, financially, for those days, and upon the death of Mr. Feek, the sum of seven hundred dollars was left by him for his widow, as pocket money, to purchase

small comforts that the care of the daughter and son-in-law might not apprehend. Mrs. Feek being one of the true daughters of economy and gain, as all were at that time, and solicitous for the future of her grandchildren, insisted upon Murphy taking the money and investing it in land for the children's benefit. The lands along the Schenevus being low in price and attractive to him, he made a purchase, and in after years, settled his daughter, Mrs. Sands, upon the farm, with whom he lived at times.

In the year 1777 the Continental Congress passed an act to the effect, that if an owner and occupant of land should prove disloyal to the colonial cause, by giving aid to the enemy and bear arms against the patriots and vacate such lands during the struggle, they should become the property of the government, but if possession was retained, the owner should not be molested in his title. Hence, we find many inveterate Tories still held their lands after the war closed, while less active ones were stripped of their homes. Service was buried upon his land within a few feet of the boundary line, and in after years, when the fact became known to the late Abraham Becker, of South Worcester, he instituted a suit for the recovery of the property, under the act of 1777, claiming, that possession was held by the burial of Service. After a long litigation the lands were recovered, and sold by the heirs of Service, who are of the best families of that section. As would naturally be supposed, the family smarted long under the opprobrium of *Tory* given to Service, and looked upon the transaction as *murder* without a cause. He was accused of being with Brant in the Cobleskill valley in 1778, and participating in other invasions, which the family from first to last denied and to many proved conclusively, to be false. But that he gave or sold supplies to invading forces and parties with prisoners going to Niagara cannot be denied, as the captives upon their return, verified the truth. Patriot scouts, also, many times replenished their rude haversacks at his house in the fore part of the war, but were refused, as the troubles increased. There was perhaps a just reason for the latter act, as the scouts were destitute of money and seldom, if ever, paid for what they obtained. Service was

fearful of losing his lands like thousands of others, if he chose the colonial cause, and situated as he was, upon the trail daily traversed, he could, or dare not refuse the King's subjects, and without doubt was well paid for every morsel of eatables, as the British government was lavish with its gold where it would cast a shade of loyalty.

He might have been honest in his intention of neutrality in the beginning but, as we of to-day, he saw perhaps an opportunity of making riches, and step by step was led along in feeding Indians and Tories until orders were sent ahead for him to supply while the patriots watched him more and more, and at last reported him to the Committee of Safety. The times and situation of the border made stern measures a necessity, and as the war progressed the border actors of both sides became less civilized—unused to the promptings of charitable, social etiquette, they often strangled mercy, under the plea of necessity, while their vulgar passions were let loose to do brutal work. Many times, no doubt, the patriots gave their enemies as much reason to look upon them with abhorrence, as did the Tories, as we find equally as harrowing tales told by their descendants, against the patriots. The western part of the town was settled by the Van Buren, Van Hosen and Boughton families, about the year 1797, and previous to the formation of the town by act passed April 13, 1819, was a part of Jefferson.

Nothing of importance occurred in this part until the year 1850, when the New York Methodist Conference erected by subscription and donations a large building for school purposes, to accommodate nearly three hundred boarding students, under Rev. Alonzo Flack, as Principal, and Miss Helen Flack, Preceptress, with eleven assistants.

After two years of unparalleled success, an examining committee reported to the Conference that "the institution has had a career of unexampled prosperity." "Though it was opened only two years since, it had during the past term more than three hundred and fifty students in actual attendance." "The number would have been still greater if accommodations could

have been furnished." "As a new building has just been erected, more than five hundred can be provided for next term." The building was placed upon the north side of the street, nearly in the center of the village, and was an oblong of three stories in height. Additions were built upon each end in 1852, running back, and were no sooner furnished than occupied by five hundred students.

Being over-crowded and extremely prosperous, in the season 1855, a building four hundred and eighty feet in length, four stories in height, with basement, was erected upon the south side of the creek, upon the hill-side. The new structure was intended for a college, and at one time eight hundred students were in attendance in both buildings.

The faculty in 1852 was increased to seventeen teachers beside the principal and preceptress. An incendiary laid the north building in ashes in 1856, and in the year 1867, the south structure also was reduced to ashes. Not being daunted by misfortune, a large hotel was purchased and fitted conveniently for a school, under the management of Professor Solomon Sias and six associates. The school closed some time in 1875 and was not revived. Dr. William Lamont during the last years of school was the principal.

The question will naturally be asked years hence, as is frequently done now, "Why were structures for such purposes, built in back places, away from public thoroughfares?" The idea was prevalent that vice, such as lures away the youth, only existed along the thoroughfares; and their catalogues and other advertisements made a special point to that effect, assuring parents that their "children would be free from the evils that clustered along them."

The first board of trustees was divided into three classes.

Of the first were:—

Jacob Hoffman,
James S. Wood,
Amos Smith,
Hiram Van Buren,
Abram Becker.

Of the second were :—

James Howie,
Peter H. Mitchell,
Hiram Warner,
Aaron Rifenburg,
Stephen Stillwell.

Of the third were :—

Thomas W. Lamont, M. D.,
Luther F. Hartwell,
William H. Adams,
John D. Multer,
Amasa Dingman.

The officers of the board were :—

Thomas W. Lamont, President.
Luther F. Hartwell, Secretary.
Jacob Hoffman, Treasurer.
James S. Wood, Steward.

For many years the farmers of this town have been engaged extensively in dairying, and have supplied the markets with butter that will cope with any other. Upon the lofty hills, the most succulent grasses grow and from their sides are springs of the purest water, that add materially to the quality of the dairy products, while the dairymen spare neither pains nor expense to produce a choice article. For many years Elisha Brown of this town was a large dealer in such products, and gained the reputation in the New York market, of furnishing the best quality of butter, the year through, of any buyer in the State. Its keeping qualities were highly spoken of and it is said to improve, through the use of modern conveniences upon scientific principles. Mr. Brown was long known as "Butter Brown" and was considered one of the most expert judges of the article to be found. He removed from Connecticut to the town of Jefferson, and from thence to this place. Mr. Brown was Supervisor of the town in 1862, and held the office of Justice of the Peace for several years. He died highly respected as a Christian, and business man. Mr. Brown was followed by his son James as a produce dealer, who still holds the butter trade, which exceeds that of any other place in the County. Mr. Brown represented the town in the Board of Supervisors in 1873, 1874, 1875 and 1876,

and was elected to the assembly in 1877, which position he filled satisfactorily to his constituents, and creditably to himself as a legislator. Mr. Brown was preceded in that body by Samuel Baldwin in 1828, and Watson Orr, in 1834, Seymour Boughton, in 1840, and 1845, James S. Wood, in 1854, and William C. Lamont, in 1859 and 1862, from this town, each of whom were sagacious, yet honorable representatives, through whose political career, none spoke of guile.

Beside furnishing such worthy representatives, the town has not been backward in adding to the list of officials such men as Treat Durand, John Moran, John Sawyer as sheriffs of the County, whom we remember as far back as 1850, as being the business and progressive men of Summit village. The former was a dealer in horses and real estate, while Mr. Moran was connected in the manufacture of wagons, with an old resident as "Jackson & Moran," and near by, Sheriff Sawyer made the anvil ring by his vigorous strokes. While we recall those days of honest labor, that made the village prosperous and pleasant, and wove a net of union and happiness around the hearthstones, the thought of the sudden death of Mr. Sawyer casts a gloom over the mind and chills the pleasant musings of "the times that were." While returning to his home in Richmondville, from a visit to the village with a sister, in May, 1879, in descending the hill a short distance below, the horse became unmanageable through a defect in the harness and ran off a steep bank, throwing Mr. Sawyer upon the ground with great violence, dislocating the spine and otherwise injuring him internally. He lived but a short time and was buried at Richmondville by the Masonic Brotherhood and a host of friends, with imposing marks of honor and respect.

With Sawyer, have also gone two others that were prominent business men of the village at that time, S. J. Lake and Isaac W. Beard who were engaged in the mercantile business, the former at the corner and the latter, in the building occupied as a wagon shop upon the hillside. Mr. Lake was in business for many years, and none enjoyed a better reputation as a strict, honest business man than he. He identified himself

with the best interests of the place, and when he retired it was with the regret of the community. Isaac W. Beard also kept a general assortment of merchandise, and did a large business. He was twice elected supervisor of the town beside holding other local offices and was a faithful official. The County Clerk's office has also been officially supplied by Loring Andrews, generally considered to have been without a superior in the performance of the duties of that office, always courteous and systematic, and who took especial pains in the collection and preservation of old documents. John H. Coons was also elected to that office from this town and proved a very efficient officer.

CHURCHES.—The oldest organization in the town is the *First Baptist Church* situated a short distance from Charlotteville. Through the kindness of Mr. W. C. Hicks, whose father was long an officer of this church, we were furnished with the following sketch, taken from the published "minutes of the forty-ninth anniversary of the Worcester Baptist Association," held on the 11th and 12th of June, 1879.

"The Baptist Church of Jefferson and the First Baptist Church of Summit occupied the same field and used the same church-book from 1805 until 1827. When it ceased to be called Jefferson and took the name of Summit the records do not say.

"A council was called at the house of Elam Northrup in Jefferson, by Baptist brethren of South Hill and Charlotte River to advise and counsel them in matters of importance, September 26, 1805.

"The delegates were as follows:—

"From Kortright:—

Elder Warner Lake,
Elisha Sheldon,
Samuel Grenell.

"From Worcester:—

Elder Miah French,
Charles Round,
Thomas Hudson,
Joshua Woodsworth.

"From Bristol:—

Elder Levi Streeter,
Edmund Richmond,
John Hicks.

"Organized by electing Elder W. Lake, moderator, and John Hicks, clerk. After mature deliberation the council unanimously judged it for the honor and glory of God, and the convenience of said brethren, to give them the hand of fellowship as a sister church. The articles of faith were those of the Worcester church.

"Extract from their Covenant:—We solemnly covenant, each one of us, in the presence of God, angels, and men, to give ourselves renewedly to God without reserve. That we will do all that in us lies to oppose sin in ourselves and all others, viz., all evil whispering or backbiting, or taking up a reproach against any person, especially those who profess Christianity. Avoid all recreation, as spending your time idly at taverns or elsewhere."

"Trustees elected Jan. 26, 1806.

"The first names on the record are:—

Carpenter,
Brown,
Lincoln,
Braman,
Fuller,
Cleveland,
Lavelly,
Northrup,
Knowlton.

The following were the pastors:—

J. French,
— Carr.
J. Winis,
E. Crocker,
J. Mead,
J. Beaman,
— Barrett,
E. Spafford,
J. Ingalls.

"How long each one preached for the church is not known. Elder Mead was with them some time.

"First mention of salary is in 1815—for Elder Mead, \$50.

"The following served as Deacons:—

Chase Hicks,
Levi Lincoln.

"The following served as Clerks:—

J. Carpenter,
E. Northrup,
H. Albert,
S. Stillwell,
M. Beaman,
R. Lavelly,
E. Osborn, Jr.

"Forty-two years meetings were held in dwelling-houses, school-houses and barns.

"The minutes of the Rensselaerville Association say that the Jefferson church was a member of that body up to 1818.

"The Summit church belonged to that Association in 1820.

"The town of Summit was formed from Jefferson and Cobleskill in 1819.

"Probably, therefore, the old Jefferson church took the name of Summit church immediately after the organization of the township."

In a foot-note they say:—

"Thirty-nine members were dismissed from the Summit church to join the new constituted church in Jefferson." In another foot-note they say:—"The Jefferson church joined the Association this session," (1828). So the old Jefferson church was the parent of the Summit church, and the Summit church the parent of the present Jefferson church, inasmuch as thirty-nine of her constituent members were from the Summit church.

"April 15, 1826, a council was called to ordain James Ingals.

"The Summit church was a member of the Worcester Association in incipient organization, October 14, 1830.

"Incorporated under the name of the First Baptist Church of Summit. Recorded in County Clerk's book, at page 1 of Religious Corporations, December 14, 1831.

"In 1832 the meeting-house was erected, and a general meeting was appointed for its opening the third Wednesday in November.

"Reckoning 1840 as the first decade the smallest number of members were fifty-seven; largest, one hundred and seven; average, eighty-nine.

"The following were the pastors:—

J. Smith,
E. Spafford,
A. Butler,
I. Powers.

"The following served as Deacons:—

Joseph Lincoln,
J. S. Martin.

"The following served as Clerks:—

E. Osborn,
E. Northrup.

"The first Licentiate:—

Harvey Cornell, July, 1837.

"Second decade from 1840 to 1850:—

"Our history is incomplete. The largest number ascertained is one hundred and twenty-one in 1843. In 1844 a notable difficulty occurred which sorely tried the lovers of Zion. Church action began in January and continued to August, 1845.

"In 1850 voted that we raise \$100 to paint and repair our house.

"The following were the pastors:—

I. Powers,
H. Maine,
C. Preston,
C. Purrett.

"The following served as Deacons:—

H. Van Buren,
J. S. Martin.

"The following served as Clerks:—

E. Northrup,
D. L. Rider.

"In 1845, December 10th, C. Preston was ordained.

"Third decade, from 1850 to 1860:—

"Our information is meager. The number reached one hundred and twenty-seven; average, ninety-five.

"The following were pastors :—

F. Jones,
E. Spafford,
W. Covey,
R. H. Spafford,
H. Cornell.

"The following served as Deacons :—

J. S. Martin,
H. Van Buren.

"The following served as Clerks :—

D. L. Rider,
A. Fancher,
H. Lincoln.

L. J. Lincoln was licensed, July 25, 1855.

"Fourth decade, from 1860 to 1870 :—

"The church gained in numbers and influence. Average, one hundred and nine.

"The following were the pastors :—

H. Cornell,
J. Lyon,
D. Corwin,
W. M. Hallock.

"The following served as Deacons :—

L. H. Robbins,
A. Fancher.

"The following served as Clerks :—

H. Lincoln,
D. G. Mann,
B. F. Wilcox.

"From 1870 to 1879 :—

"The following were the pastors :

W. M. Hallock,
J. Smith,
I. Powers.

"The following served as Deacons :—

L. H. Robbins,
B. W. Gage.

"The following served as Clerks :—

B. F. Wilcox,
W. C. Hicks.

"Meeting-house rebuilt in 1878, and dedicated November 27th, same year. Present pastor,

I. Powers. Present number, one hundred and thirty-one; average, one hundred and twenty. Whole expense of building, \$2,500.

"Her dead outnumber her living. Of the pioneers on this field (clergy and laity) not one remains. Of twenty original names on present record, one only (E. Osborn) is known to be living. Of the forty-seven baptized here between 1840 and 1843, twenty-seven only are living. Twenty gone to swell the chorus of the skies. On this field they struggled for the right, fought for the true, have won and wear the crown.

"Not lost, but gone before;

The Bible was their guide;

They toiled, they watched, in faith they pray'd—

They're safe for evermore,

Safe on the other side."

The Second Baptist Church was located at Summit village, and was organized in 1839 with twenty members, principally resident members of the Jefferson or parent church. The now deserted edifice was built in 1840, and regular meetings were there held for several years, but the society becoming small, in 1878 they were discontinued. But very few of the original members are now living. The first pastor was Rev. Ingraham Powers, who was thereafter connected in pastorate with the First Baptist Church of Charlotteville.

The Reformed Church of Eminence.—This society was organized by the classis of Schoharie in 1831, and re-organized January 30, 1855, under the pastorate of Rev. W. G. E. See. The church edifice was commenced in 1833 by the Reformed Society, and for its completion and interest on the debt incurred it was sold to the Methodists, by whom it was finished, and occupied by both societies until 1854. At that time the Methodists built a new one across the street in Blenheim, and the Presbyterians repaired the old building and have occupied it since. The first pastor was Rev. William Salisbury, of Jefferson, and was followed by Revs Lee, Shaver and Miller.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Summit is a spirited organization, but we have been unable to procure a historical sketch of the same from the fact that upon each visit the record

were not accessible, owing to absence of the official in whose keeping they were placed, and the forgetfulness of those who were entrusted with the task of giving the points of history.

The Free Methodist Church of Charlottesville.—This society has the honor of being the first organization of the kind in the County. The first meeting for the election of trustees was held March 16, 1878, and the following were chosen:—

D. L. Rider,
George Berner,
William N. Eckerson,
Sylvester Truax.

William A. Hawks was the first pastor, and was succeeded by the present incumbent, Rev. R. M. Snyder.

The edifice was built the same year of the organization, and is a neat structure that adds much to the appearance of the place. It is to be hoped that the societies of this order will exert such an influence over other denominations as to cause their church seats to become free, that all the poor as well as the rich, may enter the house of God and sit to worship without paying "tribute to Cæsar," inasmuch as that Christian idea is the ground-work of their organization.

The Lutheran Church of Summit.—The edifice in which this society worships is at Luther-anville in the west part of the town, in the midst of an industrious and prosperous community. The organization was effected in 1823 through the labors of its first pastor, the worthy George Lintner. In 1836 the church building was erected and remodeled in 1858, and will seat three hundred and fifty. The first officers were from the Neer, Lape, Fredindal and Morrison families, the first settlers of the neighborhood. The pastors were as follows:—

Rev. George Lintner,
P. G. Cole,
— Slimser,
Nicholas Van Alstine,
Benjamin Diefendorf, (eighteen years),
Samuel Bruce,
J. S. Paul,
S. W. Young, at present officiating.

The Lutheran Church of Beard's Hollow.—This church is under the Frankean Synod, and was organized May 6, 1865. The edifice was built in 1862, by the Baptists and Lutherans in union, but was purchased by the latter February 16, 1867. The first deacons were David Dox and George Lape, and at the time of the purchase of the property, Samuel Hodson, Robert S. Fuller and David Dox, were trustees. The only regular pastors that have performed service here were Samuel Bruce and Jacob S. Paul. Other pastors have occasionally preached as supply.

BEARD'S HOLLOW.

While here, we will refer to this place, as having been the first settled in the eastern part of the town. Killian Ritter we are assured settled here as early as 1794, and was soon followed by Jacob Beard, who settled in that portion of the valley, now lying in the town of Richmondville. We will speak of the whole in connection with Summit.

Jacob Beard was a German and settled upon the farm now occupied by Hiram Mann about the year 1795. Here he reared a family of four sons, John, Andrew, Jacob and Philip, and it was from this family the valley derived its name. In 1802 Michael, the father of the present David Dox and progenitor of the different families found in the hollow, settled, being a son of George Dox, Sr., who settled at Richmondville, as stated in that chapter of this work.

In 1800 an extensive business was carried on in the manufacture of grindstones upon the hills east of the hollow, which were taken to all parts of the country. The enterprise slackened and but little was done for several years, when it was again revived and as late as 1825, large numbers were manufactured, but the business was at last abandoned as the immediate country was supplied and they were too heavy to cart to distant points for profit.

LUTHERANVILLE.

This hamlet was for a long term of years called "Tar Hollow." We are assured by Jacob Wilcox and others, although we have no official proof of the fact, that a Deputy Sheriff

by the name of Whittaker, during the anti-rent troubles of 1844 and 1845 was here taken by the anti-rent settlers, while in the performance of official duties, in the collection of a debt, and treated to a good coat of tar and feathers. Our informants assure us, the tar and feathers were placed upon a stone-boat and taken to a convenient place, where the deputy was stripped of his clothing and besmeared with the tar, from head to foot, and then covered with feathers. We believe it was the only instance in the County, where such measures were taken and carried out. Since those exciting times, no place can be found, where more law-abiding citizens reside, than throughout this neighborhood.

TOWN VOLUNTEERS.

During the late Rebellion, eighty-two enlisted in the Union cause, mostly in the 44th and 46th Regiments, and braved the hardships of camp and field, with but eight desertions, mostly to re-enlist and draw the heavy bounties, that were given to induce a speedy repletion of the volunteer ranks. Many fell in battle but more by the destructive typhoid fever that continually lurked around the encampments, and caused four-fold more deaths, than were reported by gun and sword.

MEDICAL FRATERNITY.

We have groped somewhat in the dark in obtaining an accurate list of the physicians that have settled and practiced within the limits of the town, and find none previous to Doctor Birch who was here in 1830. He was succeeded by Doctors Eastman, Hynds, Loucks and Miner, who we believe was contemporary with Dr. C. W. Havens, who settled in 1840 and still continues to practice. After Miner, came Dr. Cornell who was followed by Dr. Spaulding and the present acting Dr. Beard, while Dr. Tibbetts is located at Eminence. While Summit village or "Four corners," as it was for a long time known, stood thus independent of sister towns and villages, in the medical profession, yet at Charlotteville, Dr. Wm. Lamont settled in 1825 or 1830, and in connection with Dr. Van Alstine of Richmondville often encroached upon the territory, right-

fully belonging to the above, and carried away the palm in many intricate cases. Doctors Near and Smith, during Dr. Lamont's residence, were also located at that place and were succeeded by the present Dr. George Berner and Dr. Sperbeck.

EMINENCE.

The early settlers of this locality were of Dutch descent, and their Yankee neighbors distinguished it as "Dutch Hill," by which it was known until the postoffice was established in 1851, when it was named "Eminence."

Peter Harder was one of the first settlers and was the father of the present Harders of the County, whose enterprise as successful business men places them in the front rank. Reuben and Minard Harder commenced the mercantile business here when they were young men. The latter was appointed the first postmaster.

Harder brothers sold their stock in trade to J. M. Cornell, who sold to Wood & Curtis. Curtis purchased Wood's interest, and in 1866 sold to J. L. Burrows, the present occupant of the "lower" or north store. It was the only store up to the year 1869 or 1870, when I. O. Burnet commenced the upper one and was in trade for a while, and closed out, leaving but one again to furnish goods for a large territory. James A. Burnett purchased the property and still remains, keeping a general assortment, as does Mr. Burrows, of goods usually found in a country store.

Upon the formation of Summit, the road passing through the hamlet from north to south was taken as the east line at this point, and thought to be near the old Tryon and Albany county line.

FIRST TOWN MEETING.—The first town meeting was held at the house of Martin Hoffman, in March, 1820.

It was resolved, "That sheep shall not be free commoners and if rams are allowed to ramble at large between the first of September and the first of December, they shall be forfeited." A bounty was voted for the killing of bears and wolves, ranging from five to ten dollars per head. By the vote of the people, we find upon a schedule of the town's indebtedness

bearing date 1821, the sum of twenty dollars was raised for the support of the poor. Fence viewers and school inspectors received twenty-five cents per day for *actual* service, and we suppose were then docked, for time wasted.

We will here give the schedule of taxes for the year 1880, which will undoubtedly be as amusing to the tax-payers sixty years from now, as the foregoing of sixty years ago is to us. We copy from the Supervisors report of 1880.

Dr.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| To amount raised for roads and bridges, | \$ 150.00 |
| To amount raised for support of poor..... | 250.00 |
| To amount audited by board of town auditors | \$543.99. |
| To amount audited by board of Supervisors... | 248.60. |
| To amount dog tax..... | 90.50. |
| Total..... | 883.09. |
| Supervisor's fees | 8.84. |
| To amount payable to Supervisors | 891.93. |
| To amount state tax..... | 1,252.88. |
| To amount school tax.... | 10.45. |
| To amount county tax.... | 1,720.48. |
| To amount due poor department | 43.80. |
| Dr. To County Treasurer.. | 9.94. |
| Total..... | 3,043.55. |
| Total amount payable to County Treasurer..... | 3,043.55. |
| Grand total..... | \$4,335.48. |
| No. names on tax list, 372. | |

SEWARD GALLUP,
Collector."

SUPERVISORS.

The early records of the town are not accessible, having been carelessly "lent out" and not returned, therefore we can only trace the list as follows :—

- 1831—Jacob Hoffman.
- 1832—Jacob Hoffman.

- 1833—Seymour Boughton, Sen.
- 1834—Seymour Boughton, Sen.
- 1835—Letolia Bruce.
- 1836—Seymour Boughton, Sen.
- 1837—Daniel Baldwin.
- 1838—Edmond Northrup.
- 1839—John Loucks, Jun.
- 1840—Thomas W. Lamont.
- 1841—Thomas W. Lamont.
- 1842—Isaac W. Beard.
- 1843—Isaac W. Beard.
- 1844—Jacob Hoffman.
- 1845—Jacob Hoffman.
- 1846—Hiram T. Comstock.
- 1847—Parley Brown.
- 1848—Parley Brown.
- 1849—Joseph S. Wood.
- 1850—Joseph S. Wood.
- 1851—Robert Crapser.
- 1852—Minard Harder.
- 1853—Seymour Boughton, Sen.
- 1854—David L. Rider.
- 1855—John H. Coons.
- 1856—James Barger.
- 1857—James Barger.
- 1858—Samuel Near.
- 1859—David C. Jackson.
- 1860—Samuel R. Griggs.
- 1861—William Lamont.
- 1862—Elisha Brown.
- 1863—Charles W. Havens.
- 1864—Miles Hartwell.
- 1865—Parley Brown.
- 1866—Parley Brown.
- 1867—James Terpenning.
- 1868—Howland Baker.
- 1869—James Barger.
- 1870—James Barger.
- 1871—William Lamont.
- 1872—William Lamont.
- 1873—James H. Brown.
- 1874—James H. Brown.
- 1875—James H. Brown.
- 1876—James H. Brown.
- 1877—Stephen Stilwell.
- 1878—Seymour Boughton, Jun.
- 1879—Seymour Boughton, Jun.
- 1880—David Crowe.
- 1881—David Crowe.
- 1882—F. P. Beard.

CHAPTER XIII.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF FULTON.

FIRST PURCHASE OF LAND BY ADAM VROMAN—
 ADAM VROMAN AND FAMILY—INDIAN DEEDS
 —CAPTAIN VROMAN—INDIAN CASTLE—COL-
 ONEL PETER VROMAN—SWART FAMILY—PETER
 SWART — HIS MANUSCRIPT—DEATH—CRYS-
 LER FAMILY—MRS. JOHN BOUCK —HENRY HA-
 GER—IN McDONALD'S CAMP—CAPTAIN HA-
 GER AT BEMIS HEIGHTS—UPPER FORT—EX-
 EMT VOLUNTEERS—INVASION BY CRYSLER—
 MURDER BY BEACRAFT—PRISONERS—BURN-
 ING OF CRYSLER'S MILL—SAD DAY OF 1780—
 RELEASE OF PRISONERS—OTHERS TAKEN TO
 NIAGARA AND MONTREAL—RETURN HOME—
 BRANT'S COURSE THROUGH CHERRY VALLEY—
 CONSENT TO WRITE A LETTER — MESSEN-
 GER DISPATCHED WITH IT—CRYSLER'S INVA-
 SION—MURDER NEAR THE FORT—ENGAGE-
 MENT WITH CAPTAIN HAGER — RICHARD
 HAGADORN WOUNDED—CONFLICT AT THE
 LAKE—JOHNSON'S AND BRANT'S INVASION—
 MARY HAGADORN—THE INDIANS VISIT THE
 SETTLEMENT AGAIN—NO INJURY—TORIES'
 LOSS—BOUCK FAMILY AND ISLAND—WM. C.
 BOUCK — HIS LIFE — INCIDENT FROM NEW
 YORK DAILY NEWS—THE GOVERNOR'S CHIL-
 DREN — TREMAIN'S TRIBUTE — INHABITANTS
 OF 1788—TIMOTHY MURPHY—HIS LIFE AND
 HISTORICAL INCIDENTS—CHILDREN—DEATH—
 EXTRACT FROM ATLANTIC MONTHLY—TOWN
 FORMED—PATRIOTISM OF 1812 — PETERS-
 BURG — BREAKABEEN—FIRST LANDS SET-
 TLED — FULTONHAM — CHARLES WATSON—
 WEST FULTON—CHURCHES—POLLY HOLLOW
 —REFORMED CHURCH—PHYSICIANS—SUPER-
 VISORS—BOUNDARIES.

THAT portion of the town known as Vro-
 mansland was the first settled, and is
 the best land in the County. Adam Vroman,
 as before stated, purchased it of the Indians in

1711, for one hundred gallons of rum and a few
 blankets, and estimated the tract to contain
 four hundred acres. In 1715 Vroman came to
 the valley to settle his son, Peter, but by
 threatenings to kill him and the bold demolition
 of his house by the Germans of Weisersdorf,
 he was frightened away, and the settlement
 was delayed till the season following. Adam
 Vroman descended from a prominent family of
 Holland, and was a son of Hendrick Meese
 Vroman, who was killed in the Schenectady
 massacre of 1690. He was born in Holland
 in 1649. Rev. R. Randall Hoes, of New
 Rochelle, N. Y., a descendant, says:—

"He was naturalized in the province of New
 York in 1715."

His will is dated September 12, 1729, and
 was proved June 13, 1730. He died on his
 farm in Schoharie, (Vromansland,) February
 25, 1730, and was buried in Schenectady, and it
 was thought upon at least *fair* authority, that
 his first wife was Engeltie Bloom, probably of
 Long Island. His second wife was Gristje
 Ryckman, widow of Jacques Cornelise Van
 Slyck, in 1691. His third wife was Grietje
 Takelse Heemstreet, married January 13, 1697,
 in Albany. His children numbered thirteen.

They were as follows, from the manuscript of
 of R. R. Hoes:—

Barent baptized in 1679; married daughter
 of Takelse Heemstraat, 1699.

Wouter, born in 1680; married daughter of
 Isaac C. Hallenbeck, of Albany, 1707.

Pieter, born May, 1684; married Griesje Van
 Alstine, of Albany, February, 1706.

Christina, baptized October 18, 1685; mar-
 ried Teunis Swart, October, 1710.

Hendrick, born in 1687; married first —,
 second, Maria Wemp; was high constable in
 Albany in 1705.

Johannes, baptized May 30, 1697, in Al-
 bany.

Maria, born September 1, 1699; married
 Douw Foda.

Bartholomew, born blind; married Catharina
 Slingerland, widow of Hendrick Van Slyck.

Timotheus, born November 8, 1702.

Seth, married first, Geertney Van Patten;
 second, Eva De Graff.

Jacob Meese, married Sara Meyndertsen, October 30, 1742, daughter of the Patroon.

Eta, married Joachim Ketelhuyn, January 25, 1730.

Janetje, married Harmon Van Slyck, and we think after, Johannes Lawyer.

Rev. Hoes also gives us Adam's third son's children. As from Peter came the different families bearing the name in the valley at the present time, we give them as follows:—

Adam, Barent, Cornelius, Engeltie, (Mrs. David Zielie,) Abraham, Jannetie, Pieter, Meese, Isaac, Geerting, (Mrs. Josias Swart,) Lidia.

Adam Vroman had a deal of trouble with the Germans, who, he complained to the Governor of the province several times, "set the Indians up against him." The Germans apprised the Indians of the fact that Vroman had cheated them in the number of acres, and he again bought the tract in 1714, (April 30,) and called it eleven hundred acres, and in the following August obtained a royal grant for the whole. There is no doubt that Weiser and his followers had an eye to the land, and committed all manner of depredations, and influenced the Indians against him, at least the Indians were not yet satisfied, and the matter was not settled until the 30th of March, 1726, when he repurchased the whole tract, and to make a sure transaction the conveyance was given "in behalf of all the Mohaugs Indians," and after giving the boundaries, it said "let there be as much as there will, more or less, for we are no surveyors." All deeds given by the Indians of the valley were executed by the three tribes of the Mohawk, whose ensigns were a turtle, wolf, and bear, the former sometimes holding a tomahawk in its claws. The Germans learned by experience that Vroman could not be frustrated in his designs, and after the exit of Weiser to Pennsylvania they began to cultivate a friendly feeling towards each other. How many of Adam's children settled upon the land we are unable to learn, but we know at least of three, Peter, Wouter and Christina. Wouter or Walter, seemed to be the favorite son, as he received more than the others.

Where David Vroman now resides, Adam

intended to reside, and upon the west of him Wouter was located, his land running from the mountain to and across the "Dovegatt."* All the land east of Wouter's was called the Bowery, and was conveyed to him on the 12th of February, 1731.

Each of these had sons, and perhaps other brothers' sons came, as in a few years quite a number of the family were here. Author Simms refers to four sons of Peter,—Cornelius, Samuel, Peter and Isaac,—that were noted for their strength. Having a saw-mill, he states two of them could easily carry a good sized log on the carriage. Cornelius being the strongest, upon a wager of strength, drew twelve heavy men in a sleigh upon bare ground, one and one-half feet, and drew by the end of the tongue. It will be seen that Peter did not have a son named Samuel, and as Isaac was born in November, 1722, if such did show their strength, they were children of another Vroman,—perhaps Adam's brother. As will be seen, Christina, a daughter of Adam, married Teunis Swart, and his son, Jacob, the father of Judge Swart, followed him, in the possession of the farm given to him by Adam, as did the Judge, who afterwards removed to Schoharie. The Swarts settled a few years after the Vromans, and were connected with them in all enterprises for many years. During the French wars those families took an active part, especially the Vromans, and held prominent positions in the militia ranks. Peter, the son of Adam, was commissioned Ensign in 1731, and was promoted to Captain between that date and 1739. The original commission is now in the possession of A. G. Richmond, of Canajoharie. His grandson, Peter, (son of Barent) was commissioned Captain sometime in 1754 or 1755, and was highly recommended by Sir William Johnson to Governor Colden, to be promoted to Major in Colonel Jacob Sternburgh's regiment, as before stated. The latter officer to distinguish himself from other Peter Vromans of that day, usually wrote his name Peter B., conveying the idea of, son of

*The Dovegatt is the Dutch name given to a miniature bay that runs from the main stream into the interval in the shape of the Roman letter L.

Barent. When the Revolution commenced he was commissioned as "Colonel Peter Vroman." The grandfather, Peter, (Ensign and Captain) having died in 1771, Colonel Peter dropped the "B." Perhaps he did so to shield himself from being recognized by the British Government as the former commissioned Captain. In case of his being taken prisoner under his former full name, he would have been treated as a deserter.

A nephew of Adam made himself prominent as a Surveyor, and purchaser of large tracts of land. His name was Isaac, and he surveyed the "Dorlach grant" in Seward and Sharon in 1730, and drew a very concise map of the same which is now in the hands of Tiffany Lawyer.

During the anticipated trouble with the French a castle was built in Vromansland by the orders of Sir William Johnson, and called a "fort." It was built in 1753,* and stood upon lands now occupied by David Vroman, east of the stem of the Dovegatt, and in the conveyance of lands from the Indians to Vroman and from him to his son Walter, the site was reserved as also was a narrow strip along the backwater, opposite the fort. The latter was for a burial ground.

There were three castles or forts in the valley, but this was the largest and most impregnable, owing, undoubtedly, to the fact that the greatest number of Indians and whites were located in this vicinity. At the time these forts were built, there were also others constructed for the Onondaga, Oneida and Seneca tribes, and upon the back of the statement, made, of the fact of their being built, by Sir William Johnson, to the Board of Trade, there was a memorandum of dimensions which was, without doubt, that of the forts, (unquestionably they were all built alike,) which we will here copy verbatim:—

"100 ft. square the stockade P [pine] or O K [oak] 15 ft. long 3 of wch at least to be sunk in the ground well pounded and rammed & ye 2 touching sides square so as to lay close. Loop holes to be made 4 ft. dis^e 2 Bl. H^{ses} 20 ft. sq. below & above to project 1½ foot over ye Beams well roofed & shingled & a good Sentry Box

on the top of each, a good Gate of 3 In^c oak Pl. & Iron hinges & a small Gate of Oak Plank of same thick^s.

"Endorsed, Fort Johnson, May 28th, 1756."

Judge Brown in his "Brief sketch, &c., of Schoharie," of this Fort and Indians says:—

"Here they (the Indians) all settled together the whole Karigh Ondonte tribe. Their chiefs that remained in my time (1757 he came to Schoharie) were Seth Hauzerry, Joseph Hanelir and Aggy Aweer, together with their squaws of the direct line of Karigh Ondonte, namely—Lisquet, Wawly and Caroline, who always pretended to have exclusive title to the soil and King George, I suppose, caused a Piquet Fort and some Barracks to be built thereon, which was done by one young Johannes Becker for the sum of eight pound. Here they gave names to three particular hills—namely Onisto Graw, Conegena and Mohegan, by which they continue to be named this day."

From this fort, Captain Peter B. Vroman proceeded with a body of militia to Oswego in 1759, and was employed in building a road to the Three Rivers. Vromansland being the birthplace of Colonel Vroman and that historic ground lying within this town, perhaps it would be well to here give a few of the many prominent points of his life, beginning with the commencement of the Revolution.

We find he represented the Schoharie district at the "Provincial Convention," to elect delegates to the Continental Congress in April, 1775, although the "New York Civil list" does not make mention of the fact. He was sent as a delegate to the Council of Safety many times, and was Member of Assembly during the four sessions of 1777 and 1779, also in 1786 and 1787. His prompt action under the most adverse circumstances during the war as an officer, and the courage displayed upon the 17th of October, 1780, at the middle fort were characteristic of the man, and were worthy marks of a true patriot and unflinching soldier. The Colonel had but one heir, Angelica, who married a Peter Vroman, that held a commission as Major in the beginning of the century. He removed from Vromansland in the year 1777 to the middle

* Doc. Hist. Vol. 2, of 4 Vols. page 422.

fort, and after the invasion of 1780 he purchased the Eckerson mill near the lower fort and lived at that place until his death, which occurred on the 29th of December, 1793, at the early age of fifty-seven.

The Swart family were descendants of a prominent family in Holland in an official and monetary point of view. The first that came to this country were two brothers, Frederick Cornelius, and Teunis Cornelius, some time prior to the year 1660. They were business men and held public positions in Albany and Schenectady for many years. The Judge was the most prominent member of the family in this County, and in order to give a correct idea of his public life we will copy from a manuscript left by him, now in the possession of our friend Rev. R. Randall Hoes:—

"I was enrolled in the militia at sixteen years of age, (this was the lawful age for enrolling at that period) served as a private six months; then I was appointed a corporal, served in that capacity about one year, then I was appointed sergeant in Capt Hager's company; 1778 I was appointed Ensign in said company, in the room of John L. Lawyer; 1786 I was promoted to first Major of the regiment, in 1798 I was promoted to Lieut.-Colonel Com't. In 1784 I was appointed Justice of the Peace, without my knowledge. In 1796 I was appointed one of the Judges of the county, which office I have resigned in 1818: In 1798 I was elected member of Assembly, the next election I was solicited to stand again as a candidate which I utterly refused; 1806 I was elected a member of Congress.

"I was afterwards again requested to stand as a candidate for Congress, which I refused, when John Gebhard, Judge Shepherd and Boyd (Thomas) were candidates. Gebhard and Shepherd met with their friends at the court house for one of them to give way; no arrangement could be made: They both signed a written declaration to give way in case I would accept a nomination, which I also refused. 1816 I was elected a Senator. At the expiration of my time I was again requested to stand a candidate for the Senate, which I also refused. I never craved or requested an office.

"I was one of the first that signed the compact and association. 1776 I turned out to Stone Arabia to check the progress of the enemy and Tories. In the fall of the same year I turned out to Albany, from thence to Fort Edward, from thence to Johnstown, to check the enemy. 1777, in the spring, I turned out to Harpersfield, from thence to the Delaware, to take up disaffected, from there home. Three days home, I went down the Helleburgh to take Tories. After we had together about twenty-five of them, went to Albany and delivered them in jail. A few days after, went to Harpersfield, from thence to Charlotte river to take McDonald, and send him to jail. In August, 1777, was one of the thirty-two that made a stand to oppose McDonald and his party. I was one of the two that risked our lives to crowd through the Tories' guns to go to Albany for assistance; was taken prisoner by the Indians and Tories, and the same evening made my escape. I was one of the six councillors that went from the stone house across Schoharie Creek into the wood in a *cave*, to consult what measures to adopt—secrecy at that time was the best policy. Did not McDonald and his party come down as far as my house, and there encamp till next day, and destroy everything? I had left home. The same day McDonald and his party were defeated and fled into the woods, and went off to Canada, and about twenty-six from Breakabeen went with him. What would have been the result if our small party had made no resistance, and had tamely submitted? McDonald would have marched through Schoharie, and in all probability reached Albany. What was the consequence as far as he came down? Was not the farm of Adam Crysler confiscated? Also the farm of Adam Bouck and brothers? Also the farm of Frederick Bouck? Of Bastian Becker, John Brown, Hendrick Mattice, Nicholas Mattice and a number of others that were indicted? And a number more that had joined McDonald and fired upon our men."

Judge Swart was born January 13, 1752. He married Cornelia Becker (Low Dutch), by whom he had several sons and daughters, as follows:—Jacob, John, Peter, Martin, Maria, Mrs. Peter I. Hoes, Ann, Mrs. Jacob H. Hager,

afterwards Mrs. Nicholas Russell, of Cobleskill, and Nancy, Mrs. David Swart, of Orleans county, N. Y. He passed his last days upon the "Beller farm," near Schoharie village, and there died on the 3d of November, 1829.

At some period before 1750, the Crysler family settled upon the farm now owned by Mrs. John S. Lawyer. The name has been differently spelled, as Kriesler, Krisler, Chryslir and Crysler. We will adopt the modern or latter method. We are of the opinion that the head of the family was Geronimus, and at the beginning of the Revolution, he was dead and left four sons and at least one daughter, Mrs. John Bouck, of Schoharie village, also Adam Baltus, Philip, John, and William. Adam retained the old homestead and was the owner of a gristmill built several years before the Revolution. Geronimus became interested in a portion of the "Dorlach" grant and removed with Philip, John and William upon it, and the three latter were residents of it in 1777.

The family at one time owned a large tract of land in this town, of which the Boucks became the owners. As the law passed by the Continental Congress, was to the effect that those who remained loyal to the Crown, and left the property during hostilities to give aid to the colonists' enemies, should forfeit their lands, this property was seized and passed into other hands upon the close of the war. While Adam and brothers were demons in human form, through that struggle, yet the former was not a downright Tory more than any other British officer, who had sworn allegiance to the government and enrolled himself in the army as a soldier, before the war commenced. Having thus done, his government was the crown, while a civilian must consider himself to be of that government that has absolute power over the State or province of which he is a member, and in opposing by force or giving aid to the enemy, gains the title or epithet of "Tory."

It was otherwise with Crysler. He was a British officer, having received a commission in 1768. We have already in Chapter III, given the movements of Captain Crysler and his brothers during the war, and it is therefore needless to repeat them here, as they are a stain

upon our history that will overbalance anything that has been brought forward against other white savages of that memorable epoch. While they were participants and instigators of atrocious acts, the sister, Mrs. John Bouck, was one of those women whose Christian graces adorn society and win the love and admiration of their fellows. She lived to a good old age, and died about the year 1810, leaving a large circle of friends, whose children still refer to her Christian life.

Beside the families already mentioned as being the first settlers of the town were the Feeks, Baxster, Youngs, Mattice, Larroways, Keyzers, Beckers, Browns, Hagadorns, Vanloan, Henry Hager, and Boucks, although the latter at a much later date than the former. At the time the invasion was made by McDonald and Crysler, Henry Hager, then an aged man, was the only patriot left in the upper part of the settlement to communicate the fact of their presence to the people below.

In starting out near sundown, to carry the news he walked within the enemy's lines, and upon finding out his situation, pretended to the sentinel to be in quest of the blacksmith. After giving an order for some piece of mechanism he was again allowed to pass the pickets on his pretended return home, but in reaching a bend in the road that hid him from the belligerents, he made a circuitous route and reached the house of John Becker, where were assembled his son and Captain Jacob Hager with a small company of militia. The Captain had marched to the relief of Schuyler, and had been ordered back for supplies, which seemed Providential at that time as the valley was defenseless, with none but the aged and women, of the patriots' side, to resist a foe. The two messengers first sent for assistance, were of this town, Peter Swart and Ephraim Vroman, who, ere the war closed, keenly felt the vengeance of the foe. Hager, with the very few patriots surrounding him, urged the citizens to turn out for defense but they showed their true colors, and refused to heed his orders, and finding it was useless to coax and still less to compel, other messengers were sent to the committee at Albany, until their call was answered as before stated. After the skirmish in Crysler's neighborhood with such favorable success, the ire of Captain Hager was

aroused, and the weak-kneed were forced to a realizing sense of what they had to do, and were kept under strict surveillance as long as the war lasted.

Many followed Crysler to Canada, outside of his force in action that day, while others returned after a few days march, pretended penitence, but were, as others, forced to do much against their wishes. Captain Hager was early in the field upon duty and remained in active service until the close of the war.

Upon the retreat of McDonald, Capt. Hager returned to Saratoga with his force and was at the battle of Bemis Heights, and from thence, marched with a detachment of militia to the Delaware and Charlotte to arrest the disaffected, that had been more bold upon the prospect of the success of British force, than before. At no time during the struggle were there as many arrested and confined or forced to give bail for their "good behavior towards the patriots," as immediately after the surrender of Burgoyne and retreat of St. Leger. The militia drove matters to a crisis with the timid, as well as the evil disposed, and during the Captain's whole military career we fail to find an instance where his passions gained control of his judgment, and led him to commit rash deeds, that were to his discredit as a soldier and a Christian gentleman. His bravery and military skill were conceded by Johnson, Brant, McDonald and Crysler to be undaunting, as upon several occasions a conflict was evaded when it became known that the Captain was in command. The second company which he commanded was the most active of any, and consisted of fifty-five all told, with Martinus VanSlyck as First Lieutenant, Johannes W. Bouck, Second Lieutenant and Peter Swart, Ensign, and during the war, arrested, tradition says, two hundred and fifty Tories, and delivered them to the Colonial authorities.

Upper Fort.—As hostilities had actually commenced in the valley and invasions were daily expected, the upper fort was built in the fall of 1777, as were the middle and lower, by the labors of citizens and soldiers. The summer of 1778 found them finished, and this one the most impregnable of the three, stood near the village of Fultonham, upon the present farm of

Mrs. Lawyer Bouck, then owned by John Feek. Of its construction, Simms says: "One side of the inclosure was picketed in, while on its other sides a breast-work was thrown up of timbers and earth, some eight or ten feet high, and sufficiently thick to admit of drawing a wagon upon its top, with short pickets set in the outside timbers of the breast-work. A ditch surrounded the parts thus constructed. Military barracks and small log huts were erected in the inclosure to accommodate the soldiers and citizens. Block-houses and sentry boxes were built in the northwest and southeast corners, each containing a small cannon to guard its sides. From its construction, this fortress probably better merited the name of *fort* than either of the others, although some have stated that a moat partially surrounded the middle fort." The same author says, "In June of 1777 Congress resolved to establish a corps of invalids, consisting of eight companies, each to have one captain, two lieutenants, two ensigns, five sergeants, two drummers, two fifers and one hundred men, to be employed in garrison duty." A company of this kind was formed in Schoharie in the fall of 1777, or early in 1778, of which Teunis Vroman, who had served in the French war, was Captain, Peter Snyder and Martinus Vroman, Lieutenants, and John L. Lawyer its Ensign. This company, which was mostly in the vicinity of the upper fort was called *Associate Exempts*. The most direful invasion of the whole of the Schoharie settlements up to the year 1780, was made in Vromansland on the 9th of August of that year, by a party of Indians, supposed to be seventy-three and six Tories, led by the infamous Crysler, as will be seen by consulting his official report found in Chapter III. Of that affair Simms says, that Captain Hager sent a scout consisting of Coonradt Winne, Leek and Hoefer to reconnoiter in the western part of this town with instructions not to fire upon the enemy if seen, but return immediately to the Fort. But when in the vicinity of "Sap bush," a white man, painted as a savage, was seen and being a tempting mark for Leek, he leveled his rifle and shot him, which brought the whole force in view and caused a precipitate flight of the scouts. They became divided, and only Leek reached the

fort, the others being chased to the south. Not arriving in time to give the alarm to the citizens, the savages pounced upon the Vroman settlement about ten o'clock in the morning, in three divisions. Captain Hager had gone to his farm (which lay in the present town of Blenheim as has been seen) to draw in some hay, leaving Captain Teunis Vroman of the 'Exempts' in command. The latter unfortunately also had returned to his house to draw in wheat accompanied by his family to do their housework.

The command then devolved upon Lieutenant Ephraim Vroman who also, with his wife, four children and two slaves, went to his farm and left the garrison under Lieutenant William Harper, with less than a dozen men.

All of these Vromans lived in the one neighborhood and were without doubt the most independent of any in the whole valley. It was when all were busily engaged in their excellent harvest or general house-work that the demons, like vultures, pounced upon them. Captain Vroman was unloading wheat at the time they made their appearance, and immediately descended from the load and was met by an Indian who cleft his skull with a tomahawk and "stood upon his shoulders while tearing off his scalp." Mrs. Vroman was washing in a narrow passage between the house and workhouse when she was surprised and stricken down, after two blows had been inflicted. Her scalp was rudely torn off and the torch applied to the house, barns, barracks and everything that fire could consume. The Captain and wife both had presentiments that morning, that something dreadful was about to occur, and ere noon-day they lay mutilated victims of a *civilized* government's hired emissaries.

The author was informed by Andrew Loucks, then in the fort, that Mrs. Vroman remarked when leaving the fort in the morning, "This is the last time I intend to go to my house to work." Peter, one of the sons, fled upon the first alarm and hid in the bushes, but one of the blacks betrayed him and he was taken prisoner. He was taken a short distance, and while crying to return, the notorious Beacraft caught him "and placing his legs between his own, bent him back

and cut his throat, after which he scalped and hung him across the fence." This affair, the reader will remember, Captain Patchin refers to in his narrative, of which the Tory boasted. The division that entered the settlement at Colonel Vroman's residence was led by Brant himself, "who hoped to surprise the *rebel* Colonel." That officer had removed to the middle fort in the early part of July together with his family and, there being no one upon the premises, the invaders applied the torch and passed on to Lieutenant Vroman's. His family (says the author) "consisted of himself and wife, his sons Bartholomew, Josias E., and daughters Janet—four years old, an infant—Christina, two Germans, Cresihiboom and Hoffman, and several slaves. The latter, however, were at work near the river and escaped." Lieutenant Vroman ran to the house, caught up the infant and ran to the cornfield at the foot of the Ouistagrawa, followed by his wife leading the daughter. "He seated himself against a tree and his wife concealed herself a few rods from him in the thrifty corn." "His family would, without doubt, have remained undiscovered, had Mrs. Vroman continued silent; but not knowing where her husband was and becoming alarmed, she rose and called to him in Low Dutch, 'Ephraim, Ephraim, where are you, have you got the child?' True to the love of a mother, her own safety was not thought of, but the deep, yearning solicitude for the child's safety triumphed, and gave the direction to the unerring "bullet from Seths Henry's rifle to pierce her body." "He then tomahawked and scalped her while the Tory, Beacraft, crushed the skull of the four year-old daughter with a stone and drew off her scalp." The historian says that as Seths Henry approached Mrs. Vroman to take her scalp, he said, "Now say—what these Indian's dogs do here?" repeating her own words, spoken after her marriage nuptials were performed, as Henry and other Indians crowded into the kitchen and at which the wily warrior took offence. "While Mrs. Vroman was being scalped, another Indian approached the Lieutenant and thrust a spear at his body, which he parried, and the infant in his arms smiled, another thrust was made and parried which again caused the child to smile. At

the third blow, which was also warded off, the little innocent, then only five months old, laughed aloud at the supposed sport, which awakened the sympathy of the savage, and he made Vroman a prisoner."

The sons and German laborers were also captured and taken to Canada. John Vroman was also captured with his wife and children. The house was set on fire, but extinguished. Adam A. Vroman fled to the upper fort, three-fourths of a mile distant, after being twice fired upon by the enemy. He had a pistol, and when the Indians gained upon him, he presented it, and they fell back, but renewed the chase when he set forward. He was pursued until protected by the fort. On his arrival he was asked how he had escaped. His answer was, "I pulled foot." From that day to his death, he was called "Pull Foot" Vroman. His wife was made a prisoner.

Simon Vroman who resided above, was taken prisoner, as were his wife and son Jacob, a boy three years old. John Daly, aged over sixty, Thomas Mereness and James Turner, (young men), Albey Eliza Stowits, a girl of seventeen, the wife of Philip Hoever, the widow of Cornelius Vroman, and several slaves not mentioned, were also captured in Vromansland, making the number of prisoners in all, about thirty. The five persons mentioned were all that were killed at the time. Abraham Vroman, who happened to be in Vromansland with his wagon, on which was a hay-rack, when the alarm was given, drove through the valley and picked up several of the citizens. On arriving at the residence of the Swarts, who lived in the lower end of the valley, he reined up and called to Mrs. Swart, who was standing at an oven a little distance from the house: "Cornelia, jump into my wagon, the Indians are upon us!" She ran into the house, snatched up her infant child (now Mrs. David Swart,) from the cradle, returned, and with her husband bounded into the wagon which started just before the enemy, tomahawk in hand, reached their dwelling. Vroman had a powerful team, and did not stop to open the gates that then obstructed the highway at each line fence but drove against them and forced them open. He drove to the middle fort which also was fully garrisoned.

"The destructives burnt at this place *nine dwellings* and the furniture they contained, with the barns and barracks, which were mostly filled with an abundant harvest. Ninety good horses were also driven with their owners into captivity. Large slices of meat were cut from the carcasses of the cattle and hogs and strewn along the valley, or hung across the backs of some of the horses, to serve as provisions for the party on their way to Canada."

Before Seths Henry left the settlement, he placed his *war club*, which he believed was known to some of the citizens, in a conspicuous place, and purposely left it. Notched upon it were evidences, as traced by the Indians on similar weapons, of *thirty-five scalps* and *forty prisoners*. We have thus been particular to copy author Simm's narrative of the massacre, as tradition has taken from the events of the day much of deepest interest, and intimated that many of the sufferers of that day were tinctured with Toryism. The author's authority was the best, it being from many of the captives at the time, and those whose patriotism could not be doubted, such as Teunis, son of Captain Teunis Vroman, Josias E. and Bartholomew E. Vroman, sons of Ephraim Vroman; Maria, daughter of John Vroman, and afterwards wife of Frederick Mattice; Henry Hager, Mrs. Susannah VanSlyck, daughter of Samuel Vroman; Lawrence Bouck, Lawrence Mattice and Angelica, daughter of Colonel Peter Vroman, the wife of Major Peter Vroman.

We will continue the author's account of the day's events:—

"On the arrival of Leek at the upper fort, after being so hotly pursued, John Hager, (son of Henry and brother of Capt. H—,) then at work on his father's place, hearing the alarm gun of the fort, mounted a horse and up and informed Captain Hager that the buildings were on fire in the valley below. The hay on his wagon, which was unloading in the barn, was quickly thrown off, and a few of the inhabitants of that vicinity that were taken into it were driven into the woods and concealed near Keyser's Kill.

"The enemy on leaving Vromansland, proceeded with their booty and prisoners directly up the river. A grist-mill, owned by Adam

Crysler, and standing on the Lower Breakabeen creek, as called in old conveyances, which runs into the Schoharie, was sacked of the little flour it chanced to contain, and then set on fire, the Tories, with the enemy, declaring that the Whigs of Vromansland should not be longer benefited by said mill. The Indians on their arrival in that part of Breakabeen burned everything in their path within the present limits of the town.

"Henry Mattice and Adam Brown, both Tories, accompanied the enemy from Breakabeen of their own accord.

"The 10th day of August, 1780, was one of sadness and mourning for the citizens of Vromansland, some of whom had lost near relatives among the slain, and all among the captives, either relatives or valued friends; while the destruction of property to individuals was a loss, especially at that season of the year when too late to grow sustenance for their families, to be most keenly felt and deplored.

"The burial of the dead took place the day after their massacre, on the farm of John Feek, near the fort, where their ashes now lie in neglected graves. The bodies of Captain Vroman, wife and son, were deposited in one grave, and that of Mrs. Ephraim Vroman and her daughter, in another. The remains of the former body presented a most horrid appearance. Left by her murderers between the burning buildings, her flesh was partly consumed, exposing her entrails.

"When the dead body of Mrs. Ephraim Vroman was first discovered in the cornfield, it was evident that she had partially recovered, and had vainly endeavored to staunch the flowing blood from the wound in her breast, first with her cap or some portion of her dress, and afterwards with earth, having dug quite a hole in the ground.

"The destroyers of Vromansland proceeded on the afternoon of the same day about fifteen miles, and encamped for the night. The scalps of the slain were stretched upon hoops and dried in the presence of the relative prisoners, the oldest of whom were bound nights. As the party proceeded along the east bank of the Schoharie, in the afternoon of the first day,

after journeying some six miles, Brant permitted the wife of John Vroman with her one infant, and that taken with Ephraim Vroman, to return back to the settlement. On the morning after the massacre the line of march was again resumed, and when about half way from the Patchin place to Harpersfield, Brant yielded to the repeated importunities of several of his female captives, and perhaps to the seasonable interference of several Tory friends living near, and permitted all of them, except Mrs. Simon Vroman with several male children—nearly one half of the whole number of prisoners, to return to Schoharie. Brant led the liberated captives aside nearly half a mile to a place of concealment, where he required them to remain until night. The female prisoners, when captured, were plundered of their bonnets, neckerchiefs, beads, earrings, etc., which articles, of course, they did not recover. Word having been sent to Schoharie that those prisoners had been liberated, Major Thomas Eckerson, Lieutenant Harper, and Schoharie John, a friendly Indian, who lived at Middleburgh during the war, met them not far from where Mrs. Vroman had been left the preceding afternoon, with several horses, and placing three persons on a horse, they conveyed them to the upper fort where they arrived just at dusk." * * *

The greater part of the Schoharie prisoners were taken to Niagara, where they remained until November, when they proceeded in a vessel down Lake Ontario.

"The prisoners were conveyed down the St. Lawrence in bateaux, and some of them suffered much for the want of suitable clothing, being barefooted, although the ground was covered with snow where they encamped on shore over night. They arrived at Montreal about the first of December, from which place, after a few weeks stay, they were removed nine miles farther, to an old French post, called South Rakela, where they were confined until the summer following, and then exchanged for other prisoners. While confined at the latter place, their provisions consisted, for the most part, of salt beef and oatmeal, the latter being boiled into puddings and eaten with molasses. When an exchange was effected, most of the Scho-

harie prisoners, with others, were sent on board a vessel at the head of Lake Champlain, where they were landed, and from which place they returned home on foot *via* Saratoga. They arrived at Schoharie on the 30th of August, after an absence of a little more than a year. Mrs. Hager was gone about eighteen months."

While the date of the foregoing massacre does not agree, as given by Simms, with that of Crysler, yet it must have been the same. Both agree upon the number of scalps taken (as expressed by Crysler,) but not in number of prisoners. We learn through the family of Ephraim Vroman, that the party, instead of going from Harpersfield, direct to the Susquehanna, proceeded from the former place to Cherry Valley, and while there, Vroman asked the privilege of the officer, by whom he was held, to write a letter to his friends in Schoharie, about some business of importance. The officer refused, and Brant being at the place, and hearing his desire, obtained permission for the captive to do so, and when finished, sent a runner back to Vromansland with it, for which act of kindness, Lieutenant Vroman always entertained a marked respect for the chieftain, much to the displeasure of his neighbors, who, in their unreasonable conclusions, marked him as a Tory. While we will not deny but that Brant was of the invading party, yet since Crysler has claimed the honor of being one also, we will give him the credit, and also be suspicious of his being the leader, and, in Indian disguise palming himself off for the warrior, Brant. At one other time, in the year following, an invasion of the same ground was made by Adam Crysler, but supposed by the inhabitants to be accompanied by Brant. In his report of the affair, he says: "It was on the 10th of November 1781, and he at the head of twenty-eight 'Aughquagas' killed one man near the fort and drove off fifty head of cattle, a number of horses and burnt two houses, and in their retreat the Rebels turned out to the number of thirty and overtook them about four miles from the fort. Being fired upon they returned the compliment and killed one man, when the Rebels retreated and pursued them the following morning with 150 men, and overtook them about twenty-three miles from the fort, when a

skirmish occurred in which the 'Rebels' lost 'four men and seven wounded.'"

Author Simms disagrees with the Captain's report in the date and also in the number of men brought in action, which is not of great moment. Exaggerations were often made, and much that occurred upon each side was not told, as is the case in all warlike conflicts, as also in less serious moral, political and religious skirmishes. The savages had been harbored near for several days, watching an opportunity to make a successful strike, and to find the fort left in a defenseless condition. Early in the morning, just at day, of either the 1st or 10th of November 1781, they suddenly appeared and killed Isaac Vroman and after taking plunder from his son Peter's house—with whom Isaac was staying—they retreated up the valley. Peter escaped to the fort and apprised its inmates, numbering only a few, of the invasion, and after a few hours delay, a squad of militia followed on after the savages, and when near Governor Bouck's late residence, were fired upon by them as they lay in ambush, mortally wounding one man as stated by Crysler and Simms. After returning the compliment, the militia retreated, carrying their dying comrade—Richard Haggidorn—off the field, and to the upper fort. The same day, Colonel Vroman was made acquainted with the affair, and he dispatched from the middle fort, under Captain Hale, a company of sixty regulars that were there stationed for the winter, and ordered Captain Hager of the upper fort to join Hale, with the force under him and proceed in pursuit of the Indians. Captain Hager, who was in command, marched up the stream and encamped for the night in the present town of Blenheim, and early the following morning overtook the enemy near the lake in Jefferson, where a skirmish occurred.

At the time Johnson and Brant invaded the Schoharie valley in October, 1780, but little injury was done within the limits of the town for two reasons. They had slyly gained the valley opposite the "upper fort" early in the morning and intended to approach the "middle" one, unobserved, and pass down without molesting property. But their coming was known by

the patriots, and vigilant watch kept up, and they no sooner passed the fort than one of the Feek family discovered their presence, while after his cows near the creek. They had gained nearly a mile north of the fortress, by the time Feek reported his discovery to Captain Hager. No sooner did he learn the fact, than the small ten-pounders blazed forth from their sulphurous mouths the approach of devastation, crime and death, to the dwellers of the valley, who dared breathe a declaration of inalienable right" to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The other reason was that the invaders of the 10th of August of the preceding year, had left but little for them to destroy. The harvest of 1780 had been mostly secreted in the woods upon the hillsides, and much escaped the torch. No sooner did the little cannons echo the doleful news, than the middle fort responded, "We are ready," and the pent-up hatred that filled the bosoms of the enemy, burst forth with flaming torches, and satanic whoops over the charred and bloody trail of a neighbor-kinsman and professed Christian, Adam Cryslar, and finished the work of desolation, directly along the stream, with exultation, and poured down upon the quiet hamlet of Middleburgh, where they were received by as brave and determined a band of patriots as ever a nation boasted. With what excitement the force in the upper fort must have listened to the roar of musketry, from the conflict below! But they were undaunted and prepared to defend their castle, to death or victory! Here, where now no mark is left to guide the visitor to the hallowed spot upon which the fortress stood, was, upon that eventful day, displayed valor, not excelled in American history. Although we have referred to the act in Chapter III of this work, let us not forget, through displeasure of repetition, the example of *American* female bravery in the bold stand of Mary Haggidorn, at the gate of the pickets, with spear in hand, to repel an attack. The garrison at that time did not contain many over one hundred, but they were a brave and unflinching band, and under Hager, would have given the enemy a warmer reception than they received at the middle fort, we think, as the Captain was a

plucky man and had the faculty of pushing business that was entrusted to him. The fort he commanded was also better adapted to such occasions than the middle one. The enemy, in small numbers, stealthily appeared in the neighborhood after the murder of Isaac Vroman, but little was to be gained, as the few remaining inhabitants either stayed at the fort or removed to more populous sections until the war closed. No portion of Schoharie suffered during the war as did Vromansland, and no doubt the Tory settlers above looked upon those fine farms with a jealous eye, and expected their reward for their treachery in becoming the possessors of them. But fortune's fickle goddess turned the scales and the poor deluded villains lost their own by confiscation, and were obliged to seek homes in a strange land, under the protection of the Crown for which they had forsaken manhood and principle.

The descendants of those sufferers, that linger upon the grounds made historical by their patriotic deeds, can but faintly appreciate the social and political blessings they enjoy and the

"Peace that smiles on all around."

bequeathed to them by such noble fathers. May they consider each spot hallowed, and the priceless trusts confided to them, sacred.

The Bouck Family.—The Bouck family came to this town at a very early date, William Bouck having been the first settler bearing the name.

Christian, a Palatine immigrant of 1710, was no doubt the progenitor of the family, and he may have settled with the Palatines in the valley in 1713, but it is doubtful. We believe one of his sons, William, to have been the first one of the family in Schoharie, the father going from the camps to Albany, where he settled. William was the progenitor of the family under notice. He, in company with Nicholas York and Jacob Fred Lawyer, purchased 2,945 acres of land, including the Island, in 1755. The lands were partitioned June 5, 1759, the island becoming the property of Bouck, who in course of time settled his three sons upon it. Christian received that part now occupied by Hon. Charles Bouck, John north of it, while William, Jr., settled upon



HON. CHARLES BOUCK.



GOV. WM. C. BOUCK.

Charles Bouck son of the late ex-Governor Bouck, was born upon Bouck's island September 7, 1829. In his youth he attended the district school, in which his distinguished parent was so punctual in attendance, and the Albany City academy where he passed an academic course of studies. Not aspiring to high life—but inheriting the natural characteristics of the family, he chose agricultural pursuits. He married a daughter of Benjamin Best and settled upon the old homestead and extensively engaged in such productions as are peculiar to the soil and climate.

Mr. Bouck's choice of life was well made, as a more productive soil and romantic spot than the Bouck farm and its surroundings, is hard to find—particularly in the latter feature. Upon the west stands the bold Panther mountain in all its primeval grandeur and appearance, with the Schoharie river running at its base—whose waters after tumbling and tossing over craggy cascades and disturbing rapids—idly flow, as if reluctant to break the reverie in which nature seems to be enwrapped—and do honor to the

associations that here cluster, so full of modesty and unassuming dignity. Around the island clings a halo of pleasing remembrances of a people's just and active chief magistrate—whose honesty and simplicity of greatness that won reverence and renown were here infused from the heart of a humble and exemplary father and the yearning soul of a christian mother. Quiet and unostentation reign as they did in the active life of the Governor, while the genial hospitality of Mr. Bouck and family is truly refreshing to the many that yearly visit the Island House. Being thus content to pass his life, Mr. Bouck has but few times felt constrained to accept public positions. In 1859 and 1865, he was elected by his townsmen to the board of Supervisors by almost an unanimous vote. In 1878 he was sent to the Legislature and served upon several important committees. In each public position the performance of the duties attending them were characterized by faithful and earnest regard for the people's interest, and free from scheming speculations for farther official promotions.



BENJAMIN BEST.

Mr. Benjamin Best was for many years one of the leading business men of the County. He was born in Columbia county, N. Y., on the 16th of February, 1785, and was a son of Jacob Best, who, together with two brothers, emigrated from Germany. One of the brothers remained in Columbia county; another settled in western New York, while Jacob located in Schoharie.

The subject of this sketch early decided upon an education, and embraced every opportunity to improve himself, and prepare for a useful and active business life. When but a young man he formed an acquaintance with many of the leading public men of the day, among whom was Governor Morgan Lewis, who appointed him his sole agent in the superintendence of his landed property in the County, which position he held forty years. He was also receiving agent of the Alexander property, the same term of years, which covered the exciting Anti-Rent days.

As proof of his sagacity as a business man, and honor as a gentleman, he engineered the business relating to the estates through without trouble or incurring the enmity of the landlords or tenants. He was a person of strict integrity, great precision of character, and commanded universal respect. At the age of forty he married Katy, daughter of Timothy Murphy, and settled upon the farm now occupied by Abram Spickerman, where he resided until the time of his decease.

Mr. Best was a staunch Democrat, and held the office of Justice of the Peace, fifteen successive years, and rejected other positions of public trust proffered him. Among the many political friends and workers in the interest of Governor Bouck and his promotion, none were more firm and enthusiastic than Mr. Best.

He died at the homestead, February 13, 1868, leaving a wife and four daughters: Mrs. Charles Bouck, Mrs. James Ferguson, Mrs. Abel S. Hall, and Mrs. Edwin Hoyt.

the south. The lands were held by the family intact until 1795 or 1796, when John disposed of his part and removed to Schoharie Village, and became Assistant Judge of the County. William, Jr., familiarly called Wilhelmus, reared a family as follows: William W., Frederick, Tobias, Mrs. Simon Hager, Maria and Mrs. Jeremy Berner. Christian remained upon his portion of the estate until 1836, when he died at the age of eighty-three, having lived an eventful life and reared a son who was to preside as the Chief Magistrate over his native State and perpetuate the family name by a long political career free from ostentation and corruption. William, the progenitor, was an aged yet robust man during the Revolution and was taken prisoner by a party of Indians under the command of Seths Henry in July, 1780. After the fact became known at the upper fort, Captain Hager sent a squad in pursuit and overtook the party in the present town of Jefferson, the following day. The Indians, finding the patriots were greater in numbers than their own, fled precipitately, leaving their prisoners together with their booty in the hands of their pursuers. Those taken with Mr. Bouck were negro servants who had accompanied him from the fort to the farm. The old gentleman was then a widower, his wife having died in 1770. Upon the hill near William Mitchell's residence stands an ancient tombstone, marking her resting place, and from it we learn she was born in Amsterdam, but the date, being so crumbled we were unable to decipher it.

Judge Brown says, "Johannes Earhart, Wilhelmus Bouck and Elizabeth Lawyer were the first white children born in Schoharie." It may be possible, but we would have more faith in the assertion if he had said "the first German children born at the Camps," as we are yet to find proof of either the Lawyer or Bouck families coming to Schoharie before the year 1720 and 1730. To harbor the idea that the Germans lived here from 1713 to either of those dates, without issue, is acknowledging insanity or ignorance of their customs. From the first, the family has been a very prominent one of the County, especially in a political sense.

William C. Bouck was born in the old family

mansion, upon the Island, on the 7th of January, 1786, and was baptized by the good old Dominie Wackenhager in August of the same year. He early labored upon the old homestead, but was not negligent of his studies. The first English school in the town was commenced in the neighborhood in 1795, which the coming Governor, at the age of nine years attended. We here copy the register of the school bearing date November 23, 1795, kindly furnished by our friend John Gebhard, Jun. The teacher was Isaac Bushnell, a New England "school master," whose wages were "£10 this quarter:"

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Elizabeth Bouck..... | 17 days. |
| Caty Bouck..... | 36 do |
| Benj. Best..... | 53½ do |
| Isaac Best..... | 50 do |
| William W. Bouck..... | 39 do |
| Fred Bouck..... | 37 do |
| William C. Bouck..... | 59 do |
| Joseph C. Bouck..... | 40 do |
| Cornelius Acker..... | 55 do |
| Polly Barnard .. | 37 do |
| Caty Whitney..... | 48 do |
| Betsy Vroman | 55 do |

It will be seen that the future politician attended the greatest number of days. His first public position was clerk of the town, and next as supervisor of Schoharie, and after filling several such local offices he received the appointment of sheriff of the County in 1812, holding the same one year only, as the following season he was elected to the State assembly and re-elected in 1815 and 1817. In 1821 and 1822, he was State Senator, where he became connected with the Clintonians in the interests of public improvements, especially the Erie Canal enterprise and received the appointment by the Governor and Legislature as Canal Commissioner, March 29, 1821, which office he held until 1840, when political influences led the Whig legislature to remove him and place one of that political sentiment in his stead. In the latter year he was the Democratic candidate for Governor, but was defeated by Wm. H. Seward, but upon being again nominated in 1842, he was elected, and made one of the most economical and watchful Governors the people have been fortunate to elect. A vast amount of humor was

indulged in during both campaigns, but nothing to disturb the confidence all parties reposed in his administration. Being brought up under the economical customs of the early settlers of the County he infused the principles in every department over which he had control. His manner was plain and unpretending, yet dignified and graceful and won the confidence of every one he met.

As we have referred to his economical habits, the message which may be found in Chapter IV, plainly shows that they were carried in his official life to the interest of the State. One of the chief characteristics of the man, was fear of setting a bad example, or one that would encourage wastefulness, extravagance, and dishonesty. The *New York Daily News* relates an incident in the life of Wm. C. Bouck, while discharging the duties of Governor of the State. Another periodical that copied the article, referring to it says—"A perusal thereof cannot fail to impart a high degree of satisfaction to those who, residing in the same county prior and subsequent to his administration, know how genuinely characteristic they are of the 'good old man, now gone to his rest.'"

Would that all men in office would be as careful not to set a bad example as was Governor William C. Bouck.

The *New York News* says: The late Governor Bouck, than whom a truer, better man never lived, said to a friend of ours, after he had discharged the duties of the Chief Magistracy of the State about one year: "When I first entered upon the office, I was so engaged in trying to reconcile conflicting opinions, produce harmony in the party, and please everybody, that I paid no attention to my household expenses. At the end of the first three months, my quarter's salary was paid and my bills due were presented. To my utter dismay, the latter exceeded the former. During my entire life I had made it a point never to spend more in a quarter than I had received from my earnings. I believed that to be a good rule, and that, as Governor of the State, I should not transgress it and set a bad example, which might be the means of ruining thousands. I began to cast

about, to see where I could cut down my expenses. The State officers had hired the house I occupied without consulting me, and the State paid the rent. I had nothing to say or do in that particular. The State officers who, because I was a country farmer, took particular pains to instruct me, told me I must bring my best span of horses and carriage from my farm in Schoharie, and ride in it, or I would degrade the high office to which the people had elected me. They also said I must have a colored waiter to attend the door of my residence, and a head-cook and three or four assistants in the kitchen, and two or three chambermaids, besides a coachman to drive my carriage. I remembered that during the entire quarter I had not found time to ride in the carriage with my family, except to church on Sundays, and then the coachman could not go to church, having to take care of the team. This I did not believe was doing exactly right, or setting a good example. I thought that myself and family could walk to church, as the distance was not great. We thereby would appear not to feel above others who walked, and, as the Governor's family, would be setting a better example than by riding. My wife also proposed to dismiss the chief cook and all the assistants but one, and she would superintend the cooking as she always had done on the farm; and my daughters proposed to dismiss the chambermaids, and they would do the chamberwork. No sooner was this agreed on than accomplished. The large bays and carriage went back to the farm in Schoharie, and the extra help were all dismissed. Everything worked like a charm. The colored door-man whom I retained assisted in waiting on the table. The State officers and my city friends did not observe but that all was as first arranged when they called. We walked to church, and greeted kindly all we met there, and enjoyed the services without thinking that the coachman could not attend them. We reduced our expenses to within my salary. I felt better immediately. I feel better now. I can discharge my duties better; and when my term of office expires and I return to private life, I shall feel that when I was Governor of the State I did not set an example of extravagance in any respect which might be the means of ruining any one."

In 1846 he was elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, and the same year entered the Assistant Treasurer's office of New York City and held the position until the year 1849, when he retired to private life upon the Island. He married Catharine Lawyer, by whom he had eight children—Mrs. Lyman Sandford, Mrs. Erskine Danforth, and Mrs. George Danforth, of Middleburgh, Hon. Gabriel Bouck, of Wisconsin, long a member of Congress from that State, and Hon. Charles Bouck, of this town, who retains the paternal homestead with all its pleasant surroundings, James of Schenectady, Joseph of New York, and Christian of Brooklyn.

We cannot close without copying the tribute paid by the late Lyman Tremain, to the character of Gov. Bouck, in an oration delivered by him at the dedication of the monument erected at Binghamton, in honor of the late Daniel S. Dickinson. He said:—

"In 1842 he was elected Lieutenant-Governor upon the same ticket with Mr. Bouck, who was elected Governor. William C. Bouck—Daniel S. Dickinson! How fragrant are the memories of these two men! The misconceptions arising from political animosities have passed away. Differences of opinions are now forgotten, and we can do full justice to their great worth and spotless integrity! Who would dare to think of peculation, dishonesty or corruption in connection with these honored names? Their reputation is the property of the State, and every true son of New York is entitled to share in the honor and lustre which such men reflect upon its good name. In the severity of their morals, the justice of their conduct and the unsullied purity of their private and public characters, they may be justly regarded as the Cato and the Aristides of the State."

The Governor died at his residence in April, 1859, at the age of seventy-three.

Inhabitants in 1788.—It may be of interest to the reader to know who were the inhabitants of the town after the war closed, and prosperity again began to bloom.

We here present a road warrant dated in 1788,

which refers to the road leading from the Middleburgh bridge to Bouck's Island, along which were settled nearly all of the inhabitants at that day.

John Bouck,
Christopher Bouck,
John Crysler,
Peter Feek,
Michael Brown,
Martinus I. Vroman,
Peter A. Vroman,
Jacob Sucraft,
Jacob Feek,
Johannes Feek,
Martinus Van Slyke,
Peter Swart,
John Vroman, Jr.,
Ephraim Vroman,
Bartholomew Hagadorn,
Johannes Rickart,
Jonas Vroman,
Harmanus Van Valkenburgh,
Ganeson Becker,
Nathan Becker.

"Sirs—You are hereby ordered to warn and set to work the persons rated on the within list on the road or highway in your ward or beat whenever it wants Repairing. Given under our hand this 24th Day of May, 1788."

PETER ZIELIE, } Com'r's
JOHN MYRES, } of
JOHN M. DIETZ. } High'ys.

To JOHANNES BOUCK,

Overseer Highways.

Timothy Murphy.—Of this man much has been told and written that has had a tendency to give a false idea of his true character. Among the old families of Schoharie, with whom he was familiar, are the most erroneous stories of his exploits that can be imagined, which are repeated with the greatest confidence of their truthfulness.

While they regard him with veneration as a hero, yet the tales they tell make him nothing less than a cool, intrepid murderer, who escaped the censure of the people under the plea of necessity in behalf of freedom. We have taken a deal of pains to learn his true character and exploits, and find that such was not the case,

but that he was a kind-hearted man, and true patriot, and instead of being a "loud-mouthed Irishman" as insinuated by many, that he was reticent of his services, yet prompt in their execution. From his children, three of whom are yet living in the full enjoyment of mental faculties, and others who were well acquainted with the hero, many long since dead, we obtained the facts of his life, which we will give without repeating many small incidents that have been the ground-work of "thrilling tales" as told and published many times by his admirers and which are of no consequence in a rational view of his life.

The mother of Murphy was an Englishwoman and married a Simms. He soon after died and the widow, then living in Ireland, in course of time married the father of our hero, and emigrated to America. They settled in New Jersey, where Timothy was born, and when he was four years of age they removed to Wyoming, Pa.

Murphy lived with a family until he was sixteen years of age, when he enlisted in the Colonial cause for five years and joined General Morgan's corps of riflemen. He was in all the engagements in which the corps participated, including that of Brandywine, after which he was ordered to the north to assist General Gates in the repulsion of Burgoyne, at Bemis Heights. It was upon that hotly contested ground that Murphy was called upon by Gen. Morgan to perform an act that the over moralists condemn, as a breach of chivalry, and uncalled for murder. To the mind of Morgan the defeat of the British depended upon the capture or death of Gen. Fraser, against whose corps his own was contending. To capture him, being impossible, he commanded Murphy and a few other riflemen to slay him, at the same time expressing his admiration of the man, and regret of the necessity of such an act. Murphy and another man climbed into a tree and took a careful aim. Fraser fell as Murphy's rifle was fired and no doubt his bullet did the fatal work.

His command, seeing their gallant leader fall, soon broke in confusion and made a hasty retreat, which gave to the patriots a glorious victory. Morgan, as stated, was censured for the act, but since the death of one man, although

he be clothed with epaulettes, saved the lives of hundreds and perhaps thousands, besides breaking one of the strong links in the chain of political servitude, that was binding many thousand, we cannot see the enormity of the offence, more than in the shooting of a common private in battle. After the surrender of Burgoyne, Murphy followed Morgan to the south and was engaged in the battle of Monmouth. Repeated appeals of the patriots of Tryon county and Schoharie valley, for assistance in repelling expected invasions, to the general government through the committee of safety, caused a detachment of Morgan's riflemen and a small regiment of Pennsylvania troops to be sent to Albany under the command of Col. Wm. Butler, and be assigned to different points, as most needed. In the fall of that year (1778) Butler was sent to Schoharie, for winter quarters, and with him came Timothy Murphy, who at once found plenty of work to do, and for which he was peculiarly adapted. He at once became a scout and with other brave patriots traversed the hills and valleys of the border, to arrest the disaffected and intercept communications and forage for supplies.

He was a superior marksman, fleet on foot, and cautious, yet courageous. He became intimate with the leading militiamen of the valley, who understood Indian strategy and warfare, and with them proved a terror to the dusky warriors. The situation of affairs throughout the border required promptness on the part of the patriots. But few were unshrinking and faithful in the cause of freedom compared with the many that wavered, and necessity required the few to be strict, firm and active. The time of coaxing and arguments had passed, and stern force had to be employed. Murphy was used to strict military discipline and saw the necessity of it, or at least its rigid enforcement among the Tory element, which they construed as "bullying" brutal, and when brought in collision with the Indians, he studied their mode of warfare, and met them with their own cunning. Having a two-barrelled rifle, a thing unknown to them, they superstitiously thought he was a devil, capable of shooting as many times as he wished without loading.

He accompanied Butler in 1779 to join Sullivan at Tioga, to devastate the Indian country,

and without doubt performed the greatest feat of his life in escaping from the grasp of the maddened savages. When the main army was nearing the present village of Geneseo, then an Indian settlement, Thomas Boyd, a Lieutenant of the Pennsylvania regulars, sent to Schoharie the year before, was sent with a party of twenty-seven, in advance to reconnoitre, and upon their return to camp were intercepted by a force of one thousand British and Indians, within a few miles of Sullivan's advanced guard. The party was surrounded, and true to their valor, made an attempt to break through the enemy's lines. After repeated attempts, which laid many of the savages lifeless, and also seventeen of their own number, Murphy broke through, and with the fleetness of a deer bounded from his pursuers. Boyd and others made an attempt to follow, but were unable to run as fast as Murphy, and were taken captives. The greatest acts of cruelty were practiced upon them by the infuriated savages and demoniac Tories. But seven of Boyd's command returned to the camp. Murphy dodged his pursuers for a considerable distance, when he became tired and secreted himself in the tall brakes that covered a low piece of ground he was to cross. While there he spied several Indians looking for him, but without success, and after becoming rested he again started for the camp but was surprised by an Indian when within a short distance of the American lines.

They both took to trees, and after making several ineffectual attempts to get a shot at each other, Murphy placed his hat upon the end of his gun and held it one side of the tree, as if to get a glimpse of his antagonist, when the Indian fired and ran up to take Murphy's scalp, but the man was there himself unhurt, ready to receive him, and soon had his scalp in his pocket and was making tracks for the camp.

Upon his return to Schoharie, he was again employed as a scout, and soon became acquainted with one of the valley girls, whose charms conquered his stubborn heart and laid the foundation of a romance that was as interesting as his tragedian life, and changed the garrisons' and residents' fear of savages to pleasure for a season. John Feek lived upon the farm now owned in part by Mrs. Lawyer

Bouck, and was a well-to-do farmer, possessing but one child—a daughter—of whom the parents were proud, and doted upon as their protector and staff in their declining years. But Margaret, meeting with the notable Timothy, whose fame as a sagacious warrior was upon every one's lips, and whose general appearance was attractive, became favorably impressed, and allowed her warm heart to accede to her lover's appeals, much against the parents wishes. Murphy was denied the freedom of visiting her, which was known to the Middle garrison and residents, who became interested in the case and did everything to help their comrade and protector along in his new role of adventurer. The couple met clandestinely and agreed upon an elopement. Murphy was to meet Margaret upon a certain evening, on the opposite side of the river, and "take her captive" to the fort, from whence they were to proceed to some point to be married.

Margaret upon the evening appointed, with cheery heart milked the cows, leaving one untouched, and after carrying the milk to the house returned again to the yard to milk the stray one. But seeing the coast was clear, as desired, she passed down the lane to the river and crossed over where the "Murphy mill" was afterward built. Timothy was rather dilatory for the first time, she thought, and was not there, but soon appeared and crossing the river the couple crossed the mountain and gained the "Clauver" road and proceeded on foot to the middle fort, where the garrison was in waiting to receive them, ere the parents were aware of their daughter's absence. As the hearts of the occupants of the fort were jubilant in behalf of the couple's success, the protracted stay of Margaret excited the parents fears and cast a gloom over their hearthstone. The father and mother anxiously called for their daughter, but received no answer. Upon finding the milk-pail hanging upon the fence, they surmised the truth and hastily sent a messenger to the fort to learn of her safety, and if not there to obtain assistance in finding her. But naughty Margaret was there and refused to quit her "captor" to return, but anxiously awaited the marriage ceremony. The couple, in company with several others went to Schenectady and were married, and re-

turned to the fort where a general jubilation was enjoyed in honor of the event. When the parents found their daughter was married and her husband's intention of removing to Pennsylvania, they concluded to forget, forgive, and receive Murphy as their son-in-law. Murphy had no idea of leaving the valley, but he knew it was one way of softening the parents' hearts and bringing about an amicable settlement. After the war closed they settled upon the Feek farm, where Margaret died in 1807, at the early age of forty-four. She had nine children, three of whom are now living, in the full enjoyment of their mental faculties, at advanced ages. Catharine (Mrs. Benjamin Best) is now eighty-two, and is a type of the early settlers of the valley in muscular vigor, mental tenacity and patriotic sentiment. She has been a widow several years and finds a home that makes her declining years full of pleasure, with her daughter, Mrs. Charles Bouck, at the homestead of her father's early friend, the late Gov. Bouck. Elizabeth, an elder sister, widow of the late Benjamin Foster, resides with a son, Mr. Thomas Foster, at Gloversville, and is now seventy-nine years of age, full of the vigor of younger years. Mr. Peter Murphy, now of this town, is the only remaining son of the patriot, and like his sisters, exhibits a remarkable tenacity of faculties. They retain a vivid recollection of the father's explanation of events, and deeply regret the erroneous statements made of the patriot's exploits. The remainder of the nine children were: John, Polly, (Mrs. Wm. Banks,) Thomas, Cornelius, Jacob and Jenny, (Mrs. Eben Foster,) who have "laid their armor down" and joined the father and mother, after lives crowned with usefulness and respectability.

On the 27th of June, 1818, the patriot passed away at the age of sixty-seven, and was buried upon the "Murphy farm." In 1873 they were removed to the Middleburgh cemetery, and an effort is now being made to erect a monument over them, expressive of his worth, and the veneration of a grateful people.

From a communication published in the *Atlantic Monthly*, we think, about the time of the corner-stone ceremonies at Bemis Heights, we extract the following in regard to the shooting of General Fraser:—"Brigadier-General

Fraser, who up to this time had been stationed on the right, noticed the critical situation of the centre, and hurried to its succor with the Twenty-fourth Regiment. Conspicuously mounted on an iron-gray horse, he was all activity and vigilance, riding from one part of the division to another, and animating the troops by his example. Perceiving that the fate of the day rested upon that officer, Morgan, who with his riflemen was immediately opposed to Fraser's corps, took a few of his sharpshooters aside, among whom was the celebrated marksman Tim Murphy—men on whose precision of aim he could rely—and said to them 'That gallant officer there is General Fraser. I admire and respect him, but it is necessary for our good that he should die. Take your station in that cluster of bushes and do your duty.' Within a few moments a rifle-ball cut the crupper of Fraser's horse, and another passed through his horse's mane. Calling his attention to this, Fraser's aid said, 'It is evident that you are marked out for particular aim; would it not be prudent for you to retire from this place?' Fraser replied, 'My duty forbids me to fly from danger.' The next moment he fell mortally wounded by a ball from the rifle of Murphy, and was carried off the field by two grenadiers.

"Upon the fall of Fraser, dismay seized the British, while a corresponding elation took possession of the Americans, who, being re-enforced at this juncture by General TenBroeck, with three thousand New York militia, pressed forward with still greater vehemence. Up to this time Burgoyne had been in the thickest of the fight, and now, finding himself in danger of being surrounded, he abandoned his artillery and ordered a retreat to the 'Great Redoubt.' This retreat took place exactly fifty-two minutes after the first shot was fired, the enemy leaving all the cannon on the field, except the two howitzers, with a loss of more than four hundred men, and among them the flower of his officers, viz., Fraser, Ackland, Williams, Sir Francis Clarke, and many others."

The patriotism displayed in 1780, was renewed in 1812 by the children of those heroes, and a goodly number entered the service upon the Canadian border. Among the few of such

now remaining, is Harvey Efner, living at Fultonham at the age of eighty-eight, in the full possession of his physical and mental powers. Although sixty-nine years have come and gone, working the great changes that our country so fully presents, and pleasing to us of to-day, yet the incidents and scenes of those distant years as recalled by the veteran, re-ignite the sparkle of the eye and animate the spirit to exclaim. "Those were the days and times." Mr. Efner vividly recalls his comrades who went forth with him, and relates many pleasing incidents connected with their soldier life. He was in Captain Philip Bartholomew's company of which Noah Dibble was Orderly Sergeant and Isaac Barber was Ensign. The fellow privates were Peter Saquendorf, David Schofer, Henry Herron and Cornelius Vroman. Valentine Efner was Major. The Efner family came over about the year 1760. They consisted of the father and four sons, three of whom, William, Joseph and Henry, settled in Schoharie, and John in Saratoga county. They were worthy men and their children like them were true patriots and have been useful in society as intelligent and honored citizens.

PETERSBURGH.

The lofty hills of Fulton were once covered with giant timbers of all kinds, peculiar to the county, but particularly with hemlock, that grew solid and straight grained. After the giant pines had been extravagantly wasted, and become scarce, hemlock took its stead in the manufacture of lumber and shingles, and that which was found upon the hills, was sought for the latter purpose from far and near. Petersburg hill, was for a long time the center of the shingle trade, as they were manufactured there, and to such an extent that but little else was done by the settlers. They being the only product were called, "*Petersburgh Currency*." The bark was sold to the tannery at Middleburgh and the hill, and those near were soon stripped of their surplus timber and gave room for berry bushes to grow luxuriantly, to which for several years the people of adjoining towns resorted, in their season for their winter store. But industry made a bold strike and the

grounds were soon cleared, and to-day present farms, that for productiveness, will cope with any other. Among them, are those of the Kings, Warren Cornell, Miles and Lansing Nobles, Caleb Hess, Jacob Scott, Lansing Sitterly and others near.

BREAKABEEN.

The correct name of this locality is Brakabeen, given by the Germans, owing to the broad flats being covered with brakes—a species of fern. The word has been somewhat changed, but not materially. The name was given in early times to a long stretch of the valley from Vromansland to the south and not confined to one locality as now. Without doubt the first settlement of Germans was made to the south of Vromansland and very soon after Adam Vroman removed his son Peter upon his land. The Germans were jealous of his possession and he of theirs and without doubt the lands Vroman complained to Governor Hunter, that the Germans were buying of the Indians, were those to the south of his tract, at and near Crysler's Hook, and the upper hamlet of Fultonham. But we will refer more particularly to that settlement after we dispose of the present locality known as Breakabeen. One of its early settlers was the Keyser family, the oldest representative now living being Barent Keyser of Blenheim.

In the commencement of the Revolution but three houses were to be found at this place, and the Keyser residence was one which stood near that now owned by Charles Mann. There were three sons living at home, Abram, Barent and John, and owing to the treachery of the Indians living near, the family removed to the upper fort. Barent was taken prisoner while on a scout and was taken to Canada where he died in captivity. John, then but fourteen years of age, was sent from the fort to get the cows and was taken captive by a party of Indians and hurried off to Canada from whence he returned at the close of the war. Abram was at that time still younger. He located in after years at Schoharie village and was the father of Abraham Keyser, once sheriff of the County, and State Treasurer from 1826 to 1838. There had been more than the three residents at this

place, but when Sir William Johnson examined the titles of the settlers in 1759, and declared those null that were obtained from the Indians, without a purchase from the Government, a few living here also quit their lands and removed elsewhere, not wishing to pass through another season of "land trouble."

The most prominent family that settled at this place soon after the close of the Revolution was Benjamin Waldrons. He came from Bethlehem, Albany county, as a mill-wright, and was first employed upon the building of the Peter Borst gristmill, now known as the "Davis Mill" of Middleburgh. He soon after married a sister of Peter Borst, "Tauty," and settled here in 1795 or 1796, and immediately built a gristmill where the Bergh mill now stands. The next settlers were Philip and Abram Bergh, of Kneiskern's dorf, Joseph Zeh and Michael Borst, of Middleburgh, who were full of enterprise for those days, and founded the village. Philip Bergh purchased a half interest in the mill of Waldron, and in 1838 the whole, and rebuilt what is the present structure. In 1808, Waldron opened his house as a tavern which was the first in the place. A few years after, George Hilts engaged in the same business where the present Hilts family resides, farther up the creek. David Mattice also commenced to "entertain man and beast" about the year 1830, and was succeeded in a few years by Peter Burget, whose widow remains in the old stand.

To close the hotels of the village we will refer to the present "Loucks House" that was first opened by Henry Parslow, about the year 1850. It has been occupied by several proprietors since that date, the last being George Loucks, who took possession in the spring of 1882.

After a useful life as a miller and mechanic Benjamin Waldron passed away leaving the following children who have also died and in their turn left prominent families who are now the actors in the business arena and remain to perpetuate the genius of the pioneer mechanic; Henry, Mrs. Abram Bergh, John B., and David.

Michael Borst, long an "inn" keeper at Middleburgh came here about the year 1815, and built a tannery near the present bridge which

was removed by John B. Waldron in 1850, who built a foundry in its stead, which is still in operation and owned by his son Charles.

This part of the valley being as thickly populated as now, and the hamlet being a mechanical center, it was necessary for the convenience of the people to have a store, at which the common necessities of the household could be supplied. The stores of that period were of small proportions as well as variety of goods, as the people's wants were few beyond what their labor could supply.

Among the considered "real" necessities were rum and whiskey, which were kept at all stores up to within the last thirty years, and from which as much "profit and loss" was derived as any other commercial commodity. The "loss" was usually attributed to that portion the proprietor individually used, the extent and amount of which was rated according to the bodily proportions attained and flush of countenance. Undoubtedly a consolation was found in the truth of the adage that "there is no loss in which there is no gain."

One Breffle came about the year 1800, and opened a small store, and was followed by Pasco Noxin, and in connection with his tavern, Michael Borst succeeded the latter. Borst was followed by John Myers, and later by Peter W. Becker, who kept a larger stock and greater variety of goods. They in turn were succeeded by the following, who may not have been in business as here placed, but were located as merchants:—

Peter Snyder and — Brown,

Becker & Mattice,

Luther Empie,

Sidney Bergh,

William Jones,

Stephen Nelson and John Mahan, the latter two being in business at the present time.

We find Nicholas York was granted a tract of land in 1723, lying to the south of Vromansland, taking in "Crysler's Hook," and running down the stream to the south bounds of Vroman's Patent. There seem to have been others connected with him in the transaction, but men-

tion was not made of them in the grant, we have been informed from good authority. Perhaps those living upon it at the time, were silent partners for some reason known only to themselves, and were the Feeks, Mattices, Hagadorns Crysler and others.

The Crysler family possessed a fine property at this point, which was confiscated and passed into the hands of the Boucks. The Revolutionary mill stood near the present site of the steam saw-mill, and was, without doubt, the first one built above Middleburgh, and did the grinding for Vromansland and other settlements near. Crysler burned the mill himself, that the rebels might not enjoy its use. After the war closed, another was erected upon the bank opposite of the "lockey,"* and was fed by a race-way from the small stream above, but for some reason it was used but a short time, and John Bouck built the present structure in front of Mrs. Lawyer's house, as early at least, as 1795. By consulting Chapter III, it will be seen in his report to the government, that Crysler provided eatables for the Indians, and perhaps a few Tories, while waiting for the coming of Brant or some other assistance. His house stood at the foot of the mountain, west of the present buildings, and he could have kept the savages in the woods back of it, and not have been detected for a long time, particularly at that time when Crysler was not suspected and the people were busily employed between their military duties and individual avocations.

FULTONHAM.

The locality referred to is now known as Fultonham, and is one of the historical spots of the valley, owing to the "Upper Fort" being located here, and undoubtedly was the site of a German settlement or "dorf" made between the year 1714 and 1718, by additional settlers or some of the families that came with Weiser. Their purchase was from the Indians and it was the one of which Vroman complained to the Governor, as before stated. The settlement was more upon the intervale than now and the occasional pieces of pottery, kettles and other

equally as enduring articles of household use, that have been plowed up from time to time in various places are the relics of the old dorf. The fact is obvious that there were seven dorfs in the valley in 1718 as stated by John Frederick Hager and referred to in Chapter II. One of those dorfs was here located and in giving the number of the inhabitants, for the census of 1718, he counted in the Low Dutch Vroman family, with this settlement and called them all Germans.

Here were the Hagadorn, Feek, Jonas, Laraway, Crysler, (at that time spelled Kriesler), Van Loon, Hiltzinger, (Hilsinger,) and Mattice families with perhaps others. The descendants of these families with whom the writer has conversed, trace their ancestors back to Breakabeen, at a very early date. By referring to the Chapter upon Middleburgh, the reader will find three other dorfs located, which, with this one in the writer's opinion, were the first "dorfs" in the valley, and formed in the year 1713 and 1714. At a later date—1730—there was quite a collection of families, and it was known as Breakabeen, and as early as 1750 and 1754, the settlers of Cobleskill, Sharon and Seward, obtained apple-trees, at this place, and transplanted them upon their lands. By the language of Rev. Gideon Hawley, we are led to believe the Low Dutch of Vromansland held religious meetings at this place, or near. He says in his narrative of 1753:

"We went and had a meeting at the Mohawk village, where I preached, &c. In the afternoon I went to the Dutch meeting in that vicinity." The Mohawk village was at that time at the Dovegatt, and "that vicinity" was Vromansland.

We would not be surprised to learn it to be a fact, that they had a rude meeting house, in which missionaries of the "Low Dutch Reformed Faith" preached, years before the Schoharie or Middleburgh churches were organized. Hawley says:—"I have been at their meetings when the boys, through the service, and even at the celebration of the Lord's Supper, have been playing bat and ball the whole term, around the house of God."

Fultonham is pleasantly situated in the center of a very rich farming community, and has been quite a business center.

* Lockey is a name given by the Germans to a small swamp or pond fed by springs.

Charles Watson was a merchant at this place for many years, and the leading business man of the town. He was the first supervisor of the town of Fulton, and held the same position again in 1841. In 1830 he was in the State Assembly with Abraham L. Lawyer, of Cobleskill, and was elected justice of the peace soon after, which position he held many long years, and was the stepping stone to the judicial bench of the Common Pleas Court, which he attained in 1838, and held till the Constitution of 1846 took effect. Other prominent positions he often held, but one, the perfect confidence of his townsmen, outweighed them all. After his death, which occurred January 29, 1872, the *Canajoharie Radian* said:—"Where is another man in any county, who has measured calico, weighed tea, and counted eggs for more than a half century, that has paid one hundred cents on a dollar, and never lost a customer?"

Charles Watson was a son of Charles Watson who came from Albany county in the beginning of the century, and engaged in the mercantile business in a small way, and kept an inn. His residence here and business gave to the immediate neighborhood the name of Watsonville. The father died when Charles was but a lad attending school, and Mrs. Watson engaged her brother-in-law, Harvey Watson, to superintend the business until young Charles attained age and education. Vroman Watson, a son, is the only one of the family living, and removed from the town and engaged in business elsewhere.

Upon the death of Charles Watson, Alonzo and Charles Best, as "Best Brothers," succeeded in the business, and were followed by Albert Rosecrans, the present proprietor. Henry Best, cousin of the "Best Brothers," was engaged in the upper or Fultonham store, for several years, and was followed by "Chamberland Brothers," Thomas Foster, Hiram Safford, Charles Best, and the present occupant, Charles Borst.

WEST FULTON.

This settlement was for many years called Byrneville, after a heavy purchaser of lands lying here, but more familiarly known as Sap-bush Hollow, and generally represented to be

one of the worst places within the range of many miles. Very fine maples originally were standing along the stream, to which many of the early residents of the surrounding country resorted in the season, to make sugar, hence the name of Sap-bush was given to the hollow, which it retained until the postoffice was established, when "West Fulton" was ordered to be engraved upon the stamp.

In looking over the surrounding country with its lofty hills, deep ravines and rocky surface but little could have been seen in early days to have encouraged a settlement. But the superior timber drew the poor but industrious pioneer to eke a living by making shingles, lumber and staves as well as burning coal, and sometimes clearing small patches of land for necessary grains and grasses. Many that thus commenced became discouraged, perhaps, and removed to more "genial climes." Others came in their stead, enlarged the clearings and soon owned large farms, principally through the manufacture and sale of shingles. To-day, after the lapse of eighty years from the first settlement, the valley presents a pleasing change, upon which the hillsides, seem to smile with their fields of waving grains and luxuriant grasses in their season. Peter Smith, the man always hungry for more land, purchased a portion of the Michael Byrne tract, and encouraged settlements. In the course of time, being a "lover of the Lord," as well as land, he built a church for the people, in which he displayed that oddity for which he was noted. The edifice was constructed in the hollow in 1831, and the steeple upon the hill. The road at that time ran between the two, and from the steeple projected a board over the road upon which he caused to be written in large letters. "Time and Eternity, consider." Desiring none, but "orthodox" to enjoy the privilege of worshipping within his church, he caused a board to be placed against the wall, in front of the audience, with the following, printed in plain letters upon it. "Reputable ministers of the Gospel of all denominations of Christians are invited to officiate in this house, dedicated to the service of Almighty God, until the exclusive use shall be given over to a Dutch Reformed Presbyterian or Congregational congregation."

Mr. Edgar Akeley, at present a merchant of the place, gave to us the above "permit" from memory, and thinks it correct, at least in substance. The Methodists formed a class here a few years previous to the erection of the church, and for many years held their meetings within it, as did other denominations. The church needing repairs and the donor being dead, the residents called upon his son, the late Gerritt Smith, to donate for that purpose. He responded, by ordering the bell to be sold, (it being cracked,) and turning the proceeds towards it. The Baptists purchased the edifice, moved it to the present site, repaired it to their taste, and it compares favorably with other village churches.

The stream called by the Indians Ke-ha-na-gwa-ra, upon which are Bouck's falls, forms the valley, and is here met by the "Hoose" a large stream, which should have been taken as the main, instead of a tributary. During high water these streams, flowing over the descent of ground, are rapid and angry, and present one of the finest sights at the falls, as they rush down the gorge, that can be imagined. The height of descent is about one hundred and twenty feet and by striking the shelving rocks, the water becomes a perfect milk-white foam, as if maddened by the obstructions mother nature has so majestically placed in its way. The stream is often called by the settlers, "Panther Creek," after the mountain opposite of Bouck's Island, and below its junction with the Schoharie.

POLLY HOLLOW.

This locality, which for long years was considered of but little importance, excepting in "berry time," became the subject of much talk during the late Rebellion. Many of the residents early enlisted in the Union army, among whom were two that became weary of a soldier's life, and by obtaining furloughs, reached their homes and refused to return. They were declared deserters, and officers were dispatched for their arrest. Instead of sending those that were made brave by actual field service, two marshals, whose valor, for political effect,

offended patriotism in guarding home under special pay, like thousands of other chosen ones, were equipped at "Scott's," in Albany, with guns, revolvers, and other warlike implements, and hastened to Schoharie to obey orders. Upon their arrival at that village, they were joined by a number of braves, and set out in a sleigh to the *deserters cottage*. Arriving after dark, Polly Hollow was wrapped in slumber, but awoke to the martial tread of livery horses and jingling of sleigh bells. The house of a lonely widow was approached and admittance gained, ere its aged and only occupant could rise from her bed. Boisterously the house was searched, especially preserve and pickle jars, feather beds, and pottery, without finding the object of their search. The *patriots* having well considered the necessity of stimulants in their hazardous undertaking, drank freely, and left the widow, with "her mite" strewn promiscuously upon the floor—pickles and preserves not excepted.

Another house was ordered to be searched, but ere the regulars and volunteer force could be brought in line to make a charge, the Polly Hollow militia horns were blown to awaken the mountain God of war, and resist the United States forces' invasion. The volunteers faced about and charged upon the sleigh, while the regulars, borne down with pickles and Schoharie "fluid"—in a zigzag march—gained the rear of the sleigh, and tumbled in, as the volunteers made a charge for home. They had scarcely passed the widow's pickets before Polly Hollow cavalry were upon them to the number of two, and dexterously gave the valiant regulars a charge of pigeon shot and curses, which drove them beneath the covert of their robes. On they dashed towards headquarters with Polly Hollow lancers and cavalry in their rear, amid the thunderings of their muskets and lashing of steeds. The "Hollow" horses being fed upon shingle shavings, were unable to endure the labor imposed upon them, which forced the militia to withdraw from action, and allow their enemies to escape, which they did, and reached the "Lower Fort" without a halt, even to "hook" a tug that became unfastened. Thus the isolated locality became famous in history as "Polly Hollow against the world."

CHURCHES OF BREAKABEEN.

The early settlers of the vicinity were divided in religious views, as Reformed, Presbyterians and Lutherans, and being too poor to build a house of worship for each, they joined together and built a Union Church, about the year 1815. It stood for several years without being plastered, and the pulpit was supplied chiefly by Rev. Paige, of Gilboa, after the year 1820.

Through that earnest worker the edifice was completed and dedicated as the "Reformed Church of Breakabeen." A few years after it came under the charge of Rev. Lintner, who labored for, and successfully established a resident pastor. Rev. Eggleston officiated as such, but how long, we were unable to learn.

The records of this church do not extend further back than 1830, when it was in connection with the Middleburgh Reformed, and remained so until the organization of the Reformed Church of North Blenheim in 1852, when they became connected in pastoral care with the following pastors:—

- 1852—J. H. Van Woert.
- 1853 to 1859—W. G. E. See.
- 1859 to 1867—L. L. Sharpe.
- 1867 to 1870—A. Vanderwater.
- 1871—W. L. James.
- 1872—E. Miller.

Following the above organization was the *Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew*.—The first election of officers was held at the lecture room of Mr. Abraham Bergh, under the Hartwick Synod. The following were elected to serve as trustees:—

- Philip Bergh,
- John B. Waldron,
- Peter W. Becker,
- Samuel Mitchell.

The certificate of organization was given January 30, 1844, by Jonas Krum, Judge of Schoharie County.

On the 27th of December, 1845, the members of the church met pursuant to adjournment to take measures in regard to the purchase of a parsonage at Middleburgh, as both

societies were in connection. William C. Bouck presided as chairman. A few days after, the second election of officers was held, and William C. Bouck, Samuel Mitchell and Henry C. Shafer, were elected elders, and Nicholas L. Mattice, John Keyser, and Philip Shafer, deacons. John B. Waldron was the first secretary.

The following have officiated as pastors:—

- James Lefler,
- Adam Crounse,
- Levi Sternbergh,
- Nathan H. Cornell,
- John D. English,
- Henry Keller,
- A. L. Bridgman,
- R. S. Porter.

The latter closed his charge on the 1st of April, 1881, since which the pulpit has been filled by supply. The disconnection between this and the Middleburgh church was made under Rev. Henry Keller, in 1860.

CHURCH OF FULTONHAM.

The Union church edifice of Fultonham, is occupied by the Reformed, Lutheran, Methodist and Baptist. The pulpit is supplied by the churches of Middleburgh, and the Baptist of West Fulton, of which each society is a branch.

PHYSICIANS.

Moses Lawyer, son of Jacob Lawyer, [Little Jacob] of Schoharie village, was the first resident physician in the town, of whom we have any direct knowledge. He was a graduate of the New York College of Medicine, after receiving a collegiate education at Schenectady. He settled in Watsonville in 1821, and the year following married Elizabeth, daughter of Cornelius Vroman. Mr. Lawyer was of the Allopathic school of physicians, and gained an extensive practice, through his skill and attention to business, which continued till his death, in 1855. His place being vacant, his son, Valentine Lawyer, studied in his office and attended lectures at the New York City Medical College, and after but a few years vacancy, the old practice was resumed and continues with that success which care, ability and fondness of profession are

sure to gain. The Doctors Lawyer were the only practitioners of the northeast part of the town, until the spring of 1882, when William W. Burget, a student of Doctor Layman, of Schoharie, settled at Fultonham.

At Breakabeen many have settled, but none have remained for a long period of time. Chief among them was Doctor Baxster, who was followed by Dr. Schaeffer, who removed after a short term of practice, and placed Doctor Fosburgh in his stead. Doctor Schaeffer returned, and continued two years, when his place was taken by Doctor Mathews, whose health failed him, and gave the position to Doctor Squires, who was followed by the present Doctor Weckell.

At West Fulton, or Sapbush, Doctor Havens settled in 1838, but removed to Summit a short time after. Previous to that date Doctor James settled upon Rossman Hill, and after a year's practice, removed to his native neighborhood, in Albany county. Upon the removal of Doctor Havens, Doctor James settled in his place and successfully practiced for a number of years.

Others came for awhile, and removed during the old Doctor's stay. After his exit, he was followed by the late Dr. John D. Wheeler, whose students, Dr. Allen, now of Lawyersville, and Dr. Rossman, followed in turns. Doctors Akeley and John Wilber succeeded who were followed by Dr. H. S. Gale, a Philadelphia student in 1874, and who in the spring of 1880, removed to Warnerville, leaving Doctor J. S. Akeley, of the Eclectic school, the present successful practitioner.

SUPERVISORS.

- 1829—Charles Watson.
- 1830—John F. Mattice.
- 1831—Jonas Krum.
- 1832—Eben G. Foster.
- 1833—Homer Whitely.
- 1834—Philip Bergh, Jun.,
- 1835—Harmon Vroman.
- 1836—Robert W. Lamont.
- 1837—Philip Bergh, Jun.,
- 1838—Moses Lawyer.
- 1839—John Spickerman.
- 1840—Joseph Becker.
- 1841—Charles Watson.

- 1842—John Spickerman.
- 1843—Gideon D. Hilts.
- 1844—Ephraim Vroman.
- 1845—Alston F. Mattice.
- 1846—Philip Bergh, Jun.,
- 1847—Peter A. Borst.
- 1848—David Gorse.
- 1849—Washington Bergh.
- 1850—Peter Murphy.
- 1851—John Spickerman.
- 1852—Joseph Becker.
- 1853—William Best.
- 1854—John Spickerman.
- 1855—Jonas Krum.
- 1856—Roswell Driggs.
- 1857—David Gorse.
- 1858—Gideon D. Hilts.
- 1859—Charles Bouck.
- 1860—Riley Adams.
- 1861—Washington Bergh.
- 1862—David J. Vroman.
- 1863—John D. Wheeler.
- 1864—Wm. H. Freemire.
- 1865—Charles Bouck.
- 1866—John Spickerman.
- 1867—Wm. H. Freemire.
- 1868—Abram Haines, Jun.,
- 1869—George Spickerman.
- 1870—Washington Bergh.
- 1871—David J. Vroman,
- 1872—Orson Spickerman.
- 1873—Washington Bergh.
- 1874—Washington Bergh.
- 1875—Washington Bergh.
- 1876—John H. Mann.
- 1877—John H. Mann.
- 1878—Orson Spickerman.
- 1879—Orson Spickerman.
- 1880—Orson Spickerman.
- 1881—Marcus Zeh.
- 1882—Marcus Zeh.

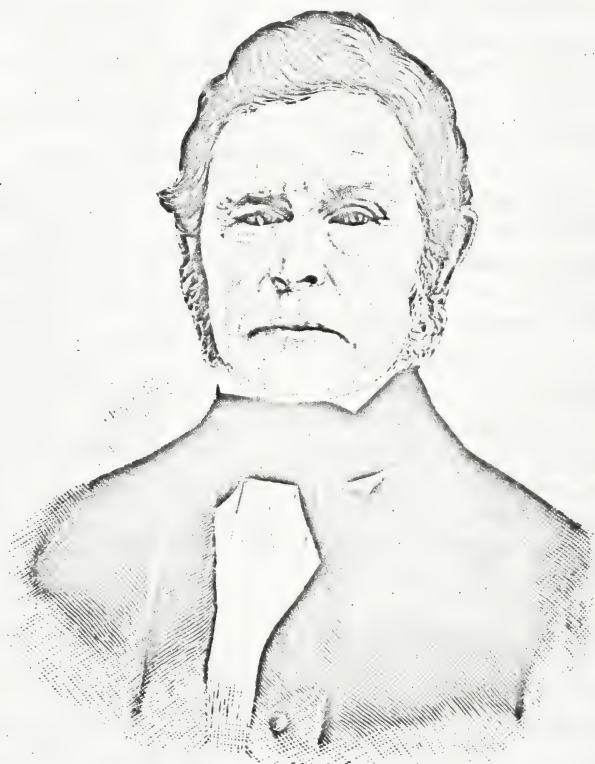
BOUNDARIES.

The boundaries of the town as surveyed, are not to be found among the town records, or in the Secretary of State's office. The formation act was passed by the first session of the legislature of 1828, and not published, therefore we have been unable to obtain the boundaries for publication but will take measures, as

we have in similar cases in the loss of writings, to procure and deposit them in the town clerk's

and other offices, as the law directs, where they may be consulted.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.



PHILIP BERGH.

Philip Bergh was a grandson of Philip Bergh, one of the first settlers of "Kneiskerndorf." The old gentleman left but two sons, Abram and Philip, to perpetuate the family name. The latter dying childless, the Berghs of to-day are the descendants of Abram Bergh.

Philip, Jr., as he was familiarly known, was born upon the old homestead in October, 1794. His early days were passed as was the custom of that time, in laboring upon the farm. He

was possessed of a good, common English education.

In 1815 he was married to Catharine E. Sidney, of the same "dorf," who is still living at the age of eighty-nine, in the full possession of her mental faculties, and is, as her husband's portrait shows him to have been, a true type of the old stock. The year following their marriage they removed to Breakabeen, upon the farm still owned in part by the family. A few

years afterward, he purchased a half interest in the grist-mill there, and in 1838, the entire property. That year he built the present structure now owned by his son, Washington Bergh.

Mr. Bergh was a member of the Lutheran church, and for many years an elder, and was one of those sturdy, quiet, yet earnest Christians, in whom confidence might be placed without fear. In politics he was a Democrat, and was honored by his townsmen with an election to the office of supervisor for three terms, and various other offices. As a business man he

was just, prompt, and accommodating, as many will testify, who found aid and comfort when in distress, through the generosity of Mr. Bergh. He was successful in his business and accumulated a large property. He died July 22, 1874, at the age of eighty years, leaving a community in which he was highly appreciated, and an honored family to mourn his death.

His children were as follows:—Washington, David P., Mrs. David Zeh, Mrs. Henry W. Becker, Mrs. Stephen Nelson, Mrs. Jacob W. Zeh, Mrs. Washington Mackey, Mrs. Peter M. Becker, and Mrs. John J. Zeh.



PETER MURPHY.

But few of the near children of the heroic fathers of our County, left an imprint of their faces and forms, that we may have an idea of the physique of men brought up under the labors and frugal mode of living that were peculiar to their lives. Under the modern habits

of living, great changes are wrought in the general physical appearance of families from one generation to another. They are to such an extent that the children of to-day are as much unlike their ancestors of one hundred years ago, as if they were of another nationality. The

pioneers of the County were a hardy, muscular people, and it was characteristic of their children, down to within fifty years, when their accumulations of wealth and their lightened labors, permitted a more easy and extravagant mode of living, which grew upon them as the country made its advancement.

We are pleased to present a true type of "the fathers" in the likeness of Peter Murphy. It is far more agreeable from the fact that he is a son of Timothy Murphy, the gallant hero of the border settlements, in the trying days of the Revolution, in which the patriots and enemies of our country, alike, surmised that Providence or the Evil One, had instilled a magical spirit peculiar to the fabled heroes. We are told by those who were intimately acquainted with the father and the son, that the latter is a counterpart of the former in general appearance. The father died at the age of sixty-seven, and when Mr. Murphy had arrived at that age, the very close resemblance was noted by the aged people, and they looked upon him with nearly that degree of honor they did his father while he was among them.

The subject of this sketch was born upon the old Feek farm, in 1794, and is still active yet bearing the marks of age. The outlines of a ruddy countenance, hardy form, and a bold, determined spirit, are easily traced, regardless of time's work with his "defacing fingers." Mr. Murphy inherits many other of his father's characteristics, not the least of which are frankness and honesty. He has followed agricultural pursuits, from his youth, working hard, early and late, and unlike many who aspire to positions, never urged official favors upon the strength of his parent's services and reputation. On the contrary he has always manifested a reluctance in accepting proffered positions, yet has been the recipient of many town honors, among which was that of Supervisor in 1850.

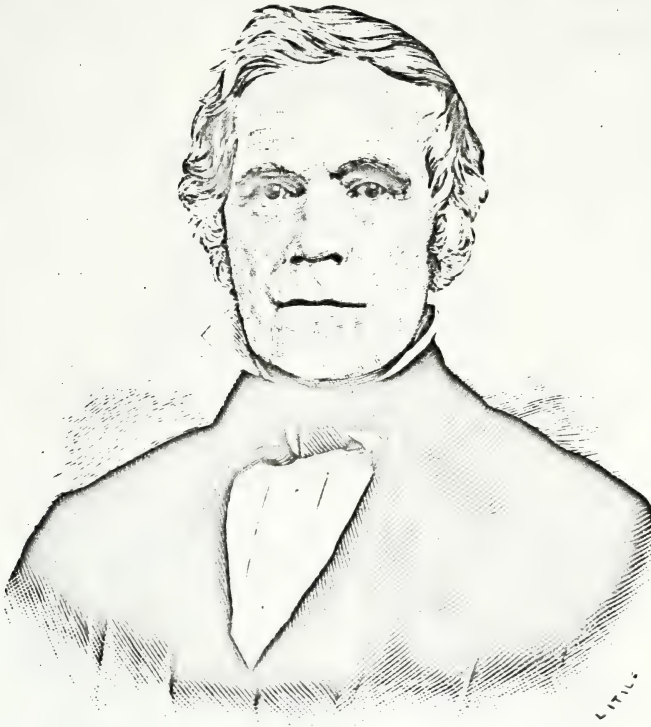
He adheres zealously, as did his father to Democratic principles and party without exceptions, never having cast a vote against a candidate for nomination, and has ever been present at the polls, regardless of obstacles.

JOHN FREEMIRE, JR.

The father of the subject of this sketch was John, or as he was commonly called, Johannes Freemire, one of the first settlers of Cobleskill. He was the only one of the family that survived the conflict of 1778, particularly described in the Chapter relating to the town of Cobleskill, excepting a brother who fled to Canada with the unscrupulous Zea.

At the close of the war, John removed to Breakabeen, and was married to a sister of Christian Bouck. John, Jr., was there born January 20, 1785, and was reared under the prevailing rules of those days, in industry and frugality, with but little if any educational advantages, beyond those afforded by daily intercourse and dealings with neighbors in the interchange of produce, etc.

Mr. Freemire was united in marriage with Catherine Bartholomew in the year 1809 and lived upon the homestead farm, which he cleared of timber and which is now inherited and occupied by his son, William H., and there resided until his death, which occurred August 22, 1876. He was an earnest Democrat of the old school and a firm friend of his neighbor and townsman, William C. Bouck. The Governor's confidence in his honesty and strict adherence to systematic rules of performing duty, led to the appointment of Mr. Freemire as Guard at the Sub-Treasury in New York City. He held that



JOHN FREEMIRE, JR.

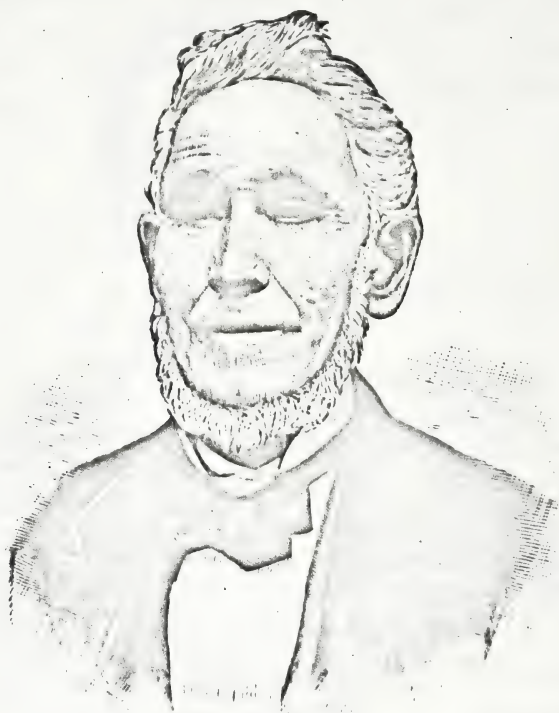
position of trust three years and returned to his home.

Not aspiring to official positions, he was but once elected to office and then as Justice of the Peace, although repeatedly urged to accept that and other honors. His characteristic spirit of retirement led him to refuse a compliance with the earnest and oft repeated appeals of his townsmen.

His married life was blessed in rearing a large family of children who have proven themselves useful and energetic citizens, such as reflect credit upon the wise counsels and examples of

honest parents. They are Mrs. John B. Waldron, of Breakabeen; John Freemyer, of Cassopolis, Mich.; Mrs. Wm. Woolford, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; William H., of Breakabeen; and Abram, of Middleburgh. Mrs. Ephraim Patterson also was a daughter but died several years ago, as did her patriotic husband who received injuries that proved fatal while in the late Rebellion.

The family name was originally spelled Fri-mire, but of late has been changed to *Freemyer* with the common consent of all branches of the family.



ADAM L. MATTICE.

Adam L. Mattice is a worthy representative of the early settlers of the valley, and of one in particular, Nicholas Mattice who first located within the neighborhood of the "upper fort." At what time he immigrated is not known, but he there reared a large family, in which were three sons—Adam, Frederick, and Conradt. Adam early espoused the cause of the Crown and fled to Canada as a Mohawk, in 1777, and there his descendants still reside.

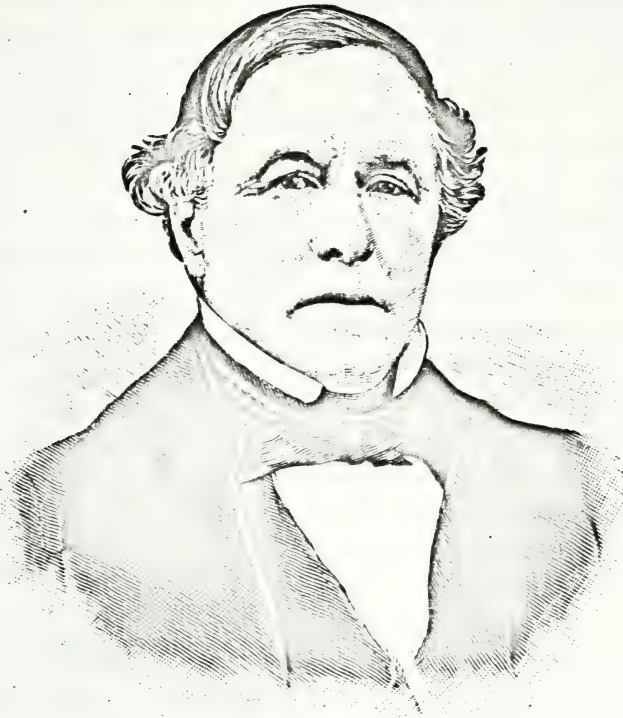
Mrs. Burget, of Breakabeen, is the last of the direct heirs of Frederick, which fact leaves Conradt the progenitor of those bearing the family name in the County. He resided upon the farm now occupied by Joseph Mattice, where he reared six children as follows:—Lawrence, David, John, Henry, Mrs. John Brown, of Sharon, and Mrs. Garrett Hallenbeck, of Fulton.

Adam L. is one of five children of Lawrence Mattice, and was born in Fulton, September 15, 1803. He has always lived upon a farm and has accumulated a property that bespeaks a steady judgment and practical business qualifications. He has served the town in the capacity of road commissioner, assessor and other minor offices for many years, and is looked upon by his townsmen as an upright man in whom they have confidence to act with honor and precision.

Although he has arrived at the advanced age of seventy-eight, yet the sturdy form is erect, the muscles strong and steady, and the mind clear and active, as are those of most of the children of pioneers of the County. He was united in marriage with Dinah, daughter of David Mattice, and to them have been born five children,

James H., Lawrence A., Garret W., Dinah and Elizabeth. James H. died January 16, 1874.

The business is at present being carried on by Garret W., and Lawrence A. Mattice.



EPHRAIM B. VROMAN.

Lieutenant Ephraim Vroman, of Revolutionary fame, was the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. That patriot had four children that survived the Revolution: Bartholomew E., Josias E., Maria, (Mrs. Peter P. Zielie) and Harmonus, a child by his second wife. Bartholomew and Josias married sisters, they being daughters of Colonel Peter Dietz, whose patriotism made the name historic and his memory live as long as literature exists. Josias E. has but two sons at present living, Harmon and Ephraim, who have arrived at advanced ages. Our subject is the only living heir of Bartholomew and was born upon the old farm in Vromansland on the 18th of August, 1806. He was

reared as a farmer and strictly adhered to that occupation till within a short time, when he retired.

Mr. Vroman received but a meagre common school education, yet inheriting the natural characteristics of the two families from which he sprang, but few men possess equal business tact or a better practical judgment, as shown in his individual affairs and those of the public in which he has from time to time been urged to transact.

We are assured by those of greater age, who were personally acquainted with several of the old stock Vromans, that he is a true type of that sturdy race in form, features and general

appearance. He has five children as follows: Mrs. Alonzo Best, Mrs. Harmon Vroman, Mrs. Addison Cornell, George A., and Charles W., the latter two occupying the old farm that has been in the Vroman family since 1711.

Although Mr. Vroman is naturally reserved, yet he is firm in his convictions, and free in his expressions of right, and in the community in which he resides, as in his family, is looked up to as a wise counsellor, generous neighbor and an unflinching patriot. It was Mr. Vroman's grandmother and youthful aunt that were murdered at the foot of the Onistagrawa by the Indian Seths Henry and his accomplice, Beacraft, the demoniac Tory. His father also was made to feel the vengeance of the unmerciful foe, in being their prisoner and forced to endure insults and hardships, which planted a hatred of Indians and Tories in the family breast that has been transmitted, and will be undoubtedly for several generations, and gave birth to a staunch patriotism that truly is undying.

CHAPTER XIV.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF MIDDLEBURGH.

BEAUTY OF SCENERY—THE MOUNTAINS—WEISER'S DORF—CONRAD WEISER—HIS DAUGHTER—JOHN PETER G. MUHLENBERG—HIS PATRIOTISM—CONRAD WEISER, JR.—INTERPRETER—SETTLERS OF THE DORF—RELICS OF THE PAST—REFORMED CHURCH—ITS EARLY HISTORY—EDIFICE REBUILT IN 1785—PETITION TO ASSEMBLY—OTHER PAPERS—PASTORS' REFORMED CHURCH—LUTHERAN CHURCH—METHODIST—EPISCOPAL—THE TRUE REFORMED CHURCH—MIDDLE FORT—DESCRIPTION—FIRING UPON THE FLAG—

ZIELIE FAMILY—FIRST ZIELIES IN THE VALLEY—FAMILY RELIC—COLONEL ZIELIE—HIS CHILDREN—PETER SWART—OLD CLOCK—LOW DUTCH BECKERS—BORST FAMILY—GRIST MILLS—LOUCK'S FAMILY—ECKERSON'S—FIRST MERCHANT—GRIST MILL—BELLINGER FAMILY—HARTMAN'S DORF—RICHTMYER FAMILY—REBUILDING OF THE VILLAGE—ALEXANDER BOYD—J. M. SCRIBNER—JOHN HINMAN—NATHAN HINMAN—BUILDING THE BRIDGE—JONATHAN DANFORTH—ATCHINSON HOUSE—FREEMIRE HOUSE—MERCHANTS—FREEMAN STANTON—JOHN P. BELLINGER—D. D. DODGE—TANNING—DANFORTH FAMILIES—GENERAL DANFORTH—PHYSICIANS—LEGAL FRATERNITY—HON. LYMAN SANFORD—NATIONAL BANK—MASONIC LODGE—I. O. G. TEMPLARS—G. A. R. POST—CORNET BAND—INCORPORATION—HUNTER'S LAND—SUPERVISORS—BOUNDARIES.

IN approaching Middleburgh village from Schoharie by the valley road, one is not so much impressed with the beauty of the scenery as when passing over the hill from the Cobleskill valley, by the way of the poorhouse, there is presented one of those placid landscapes, for which Schoharie County is noted. The broad well kept flats that stretch from the giant evergreen hills upon the west, to the sloping ones and the cliff on the east, are dotted here and there with spacious residences and out-buildings that bespeak the wealth and prosperity of the occupants, and present a winning picture of plenty and contentment. Old Mohegontee* stands out boldly as a terminus of a chain of picturesque hills, while Ocongona and Onistagrawa, in romantic contrast, look down upon the quiet scene below and give to the whole, grandeur and sublimity such as mountains only can give to rural sceneries. Upon their lofty summits and along their sides, the Aborigines of the country wandered for the deer, fox and

* Judge Brown, in his pamphlet history, gives the following names to the three mountains: Mohegan, Conegena and Onisto Graw.

bear, while at their bases was reared the wigwam, to which the first settlers of civilization in the valley, resorted for succor, in the winter of 1713, when they sought the "promised land" as refugees from the toils which selfish officials had woven to entrap them and make them unwilling servants to a monied aristocracy.

Here where the pleasant village now stands, the "seditious" Conrad Weiser made a choice for his settlement, which alone was evidence enough that he was not as ignorant as tradition and royal officials have represented him to be.

By consulting the second chapter of this work, we find that during the land difficulties, Weiser and his followers left the valley and settled in Pennsylvania about the year 1722. There the old man died and was buried a few miles from Reading, within a plot of ground marked out by himself. He was a prominent man in his neighborhood, and much esteemed by all who knew him. His daughter, Anna Maria, married Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, D. D., the founder of the Lutheran church in America.

John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg was a son who gave to the world a glorious example of true patriotism.

He was educated for the ministry and ordained in the year 1768, and at the outbreak of the Revolution, was stationed at Woodstock, Virginia. Of him, Lossing in his Field-book of the Revolution, says:—

"In 1774 he was chairman of the committee of safety in his county, and was also elected a member of the House of Burgesses. At the close of 1775, he was elected colonel of a Virginia regiment when he laid aside his pastoral character. In concluding his farewell sermon, he said, that in the language of Holy Writ, 'There was a time for all things; a time to preach, and a time to pray, but those times had passed away,' and then, in a voice that echoed like a trumpet-blast through the church, he said 'that there was a time to fight, and that time had now come!' Then laying aside his sacerdotal gown, he stood before his flock in the full regimental dress of a Virginia Colonel. He ordered the drums to be beaten at the church door for recruits, and almost his entire male audience that were capable of bearing arms joined

his standard. Nearly three hundred men enlisted under his banner on that day. He was in the battle at Charlestown, in 1776, and served with fidelity in the Southern campaign that year. Congress promoted him to the rank of Brigadier-General, in February, 1777, and he was ordered to take charge of all the Continental troops of the Virginia line in that State. He joined the army of Washington, and was with him in all his movements until the year 1779. By the close of that year he was again ordered to take command of the Virginia troops, and was active until the attack of Cornwallis at Yorktown. At the close of the war he was elevated to the rank of Major-General. He removed to Pennsylvania, and in various civil capacities served the State. He was a member of the first and third Congresses, and in 1801 was elected a United States Senator. The same year he was appointed supervisor of the internal revenue of Pennsylvania, and in 1802 was made collector of the port of Philadelphia. He remained in that office until his death, which occurred at his country-seat near Philadelphia, on the first of October (his birthday), 1807, at the age of sixty-one years."

John Conrad, Sr., was an Indian interpreter and agent and was succeeded by his son, John Conrad, whom it will be remembered was tutored as an interpreter while living here, for which Adam Vroman made a charge against his father to Governor Hunter in 1715. Young Weiser was employed by the government for many years as such, and was often in company with Washington in making treaties with the Indians. Tradition says that when Washington was enroute as President of the United States, to the city of New York, he traveled many miles out of his way to visit the grave of his much esteemed friend.

We find the descendants of the Weiser family quite numerous and occupying prominent positions; and when we look upon the life of General Muhlenberg we cannot but believe that the spirit of Weiser was inherited by him, which was called "rebellious, seditious and obstinate, and an outgrowth of ignorance," when the family lived at the camps and in the Schoharie valley. It is to such spirits we are indebted for our po-

litical and religious liberties, and upon which oppression has always tried to trample.

We might with propriety here state that all of the descendants of the followers of Weiser, were true patriots in the Revolution without a single exception to our knowledge.

There was one of the Beckers that removed with Weiser, whose last heir it has been supposed, died several years ago leaving a vast property which has remained without an ownership since, but it is a mistake, as the family now living near Philadelphia are more numerous than those of the Schoharie settlement to-day. The progenitor was of the High Dutch family and brother of Johannes, who settled on Fox's creek.

When the Germans came to the valley there were a small number of Mohegans living to the north of the confluence of the Little Schoharie, with the main stream. There could not have been many, yet it must have been in their hospitable wigwams they found shelter after their dreary march through the deep snow, from Livingston's manor. This portion of the Schoharie tribe dwindled away to a few in number, and the land they occupied was taken by the Zielies and Eckersons as early as 1730, and perhaps earlier. The Indians gave way as the whites increased, and at last congregated at and near the castle in Vroman's land where they were in 1750, with the exception of a few straggling ones, found here and there along the streams. Queen Anne had directed implements of all kinds to be sent from England with the Germans, but it cannot be supposed Weiser and his followers were allowed to share in them since they mutinied and left the Camps, "against repeated orders," but were forced to depend upon their ingenuity and that of the Indians in building without them, and when spring came, to plant for a better subsistence than "roots and herbs."

Although they were destitute for a while, it was not long before they managed to obtain the necessary utensils to till the ground and build their huts and from the tenor of Adam Vroman's letter to Governor Hunter, bearing date July, 1715, they had horses, and that they drove them upon his grain in the night, beside "tied bells upon their necks and drove them

to and fro." Judge Brown tells us, "nine of them owned the first horse, which was a gray," but we find in little over two years after they settled here, they had "horses." Perhaps the Judge had not reference to Weiser and his clan, but to those who came after by the way of Albany and the Helleberg, and settled lower down the valley, but his dates correspond nearer to this settlement, yet in them he is inaccurate. Weiser located to the east of the present Methodist church, and we are fully convinced after a careful study of the matter, that another settlement was made by his immediate followers to the west, where the Reformed church now stands. It may and may not have been directly under his charge as "list master" or business man, it matters not. There was a settlement made, but there being so many people upon a small space of ground the settlement broke up in a few years, as Hartman's dorf did, for broader fields, that each could ply their vocations as farmers, principally, more extensive. That together with Weiser's, proper, and Hartman's, made three settlements within a distance of less than two miles, and contained at least one hundred and sixty families according to tradition and documents heretofore copied. Thus the practical reader will see at once that they could not subsist without great inconvenience, and would, as soon as possible, divide and settle upon farms. They did so, and by the year 1730 the whole valley was, as far down as the Island opposite of the present village of Sloansville, taken up by them and new comers, and under a fair state of cultivation. Many that came with the first parties, removed to the Mohawk, while others from there came here, especially during the land troubles. They were for the first few years a very uneasy people, and made it so for those around them. Not only for Adam Vroman, but for the Indians, and officials both district and colonial. They firmly believed they were to be entrapped by land sharks, and were not far from right, and finding they could not obtain a "redress of their grievances," many of them left the valley for ever, which satisfied the honorable government officials that it was better to give way to many of their foibles, especially than lose "so valuable an acquisition to the frontier," which was experienced by those

that remained in the purchase of land at a nominal sum, with an assurance of peaceable possession.

It is not to be imagined that Weiser's dorf was left tenantless upon the removal of the discouraged party, as we find the Dillebacks, (Dillenbecks,) Earharts, Zehs, Weavers, Casselmans, Segendorfs, Borsts, Schaeffers, Loucks, Rickards, Ingolds and Conradt families remained and were joined a few years after by the Eckersons, Zielies, and at a later date by others, progenitors of those who were actors in the Revolutionary scenes living near, not above mentioned. The history of the village and valley from 1722 to the Revolutionary struggle has but little interest. The forest was felled and the productive fields became broader, the rude huts were replaced by comfortable houses, large barns took the place of barracks and stacks, and prosperity and contentment marked its course and abode at every turn. The occupants of the hamlet for the first few years of their settlement owned plots of ground upon the interval from which they obtained their supplies, but as their sons and daughters united to form other families they increased their acreage by purchasing of those who at an early date took advantage of the prospect and purchased of Governor Hunter. Many of those farms have been handed down from one generation to another for the space of one hundred and fifty years, and judging by the temperate, economical habits and pride of family another generation will enjoy the fruits of their forefathers' labors without passing to other hands. There are but few relics now to be seen that time has spared, to link the early settlement of this place with the present. The Reformed church as an organization—and a portion of the building used during the struggle for Independence as a fort, are the only objects that we meet. The old stone house near the Methodist church is one that our nearer fathers reared after they passed through the fiery ordeal of a war made sacred in the annals of history by their sacrifice of life, blood, and fortunes, upon the corner-stone of America's temple of liberty! It is as a footprint of the hunted patriots in the ashes of devastation, after they eluded the vengeance of a mercenary, blood-thirsty foe!

It has been spared to us as the corner-stone of the re-building or second settlement of Weiser's dorf, as it will be remembered that the walls of the old brick church were all that was left of the village after Johnson and Brant's exit from the valley. But before we consider the events of that day let us go back to earlier times and peer into the darkness of the past, between the removal of Weiser and his followers, and the Revolution.

In making the attempt, we regret exceedingly that the few records that are left of those days are indeed but feeble tapers to lead us accurately, without stumbling, through the changes that circumstances required the sturdy yeoman to make. We cannot but admit, as all evidence establishes the fact, that Weiser's dorf was the first white settlement in the County, and that it was made in 1713, by High Dutch, while Vromansland was settled by the Low Dutch in 1714 or 1715.

Reformed Dutch Church.—Knowing the natural propensity of the High and Low Dutch to the observance of religious rites and duties, we cannot believe they lived in the valley from 1713 to the year 1732, when this church as thought by many was founded, without religious services and an organization. Nor do we think they remained so up to the year 1728, when the Schoharie church was organized, and attended there. As the latter was founded but eight years at least after the settlement of the dorf in which it was organized, we cannot see any reason why this dorf was not as active, for these settlers were as able financially, as energetic, in a business point of view, and as religious as any other. We find that the people of this place and Vromansland in after years, beside maintaining this church, assisted in that of Fox's Creek. To conclude we cannot but think that the Middleburgh Reformed church was the parent church of the Schoharie settlements, and was founded long years before an edifice was erected, unless they built a rude house of worship, previous to the one that was burned by Johnson and Brant in 1780, of which we have not the least knowledge. We cannot but think it was organized as early as 1714 or 1716. The early churches of the border settlements had no regu-

lar organized services, as at present, but perhaps they brought their organization with them from Germany. Their first religious proceedings were not recorded, as a general thing and if at all, they were kept in a rude unbusiness-like manner, and became lost. As we intimated before, we have faint light to guide us in the early history of the church.

Corwin's Manual says, Hendrick Hager preached in Schoharie between 1711 and 1717 as a missionary. Undoubtedly he came as soon as a settlement was formed, and appearing among a people who were religious by birth, he formed or re-formed an organization among them. There being a deep enmity existing between the Germans and their Holland neighbors, at that time, and for several years we are led to believe the latter were not admitted in their society, but numbering several families, and being also a religious people, they held meetings in their own neighborhood, and perhaps formed an organization. Upon the coming of the Zielie and Eckerson families, who settled among the Germans, and the removal of Weiser and his excitable followers, a friendly feeling was courted and in the course of a few years, the High and Low Dutch worshipped together, and when a new church edifice was to be built, they united in the erection of it. A few years later the Low Dutch gained the entire control of it, and the High Dutch society was consumed by them. It was after, or when the Low Dutch began to control or obtain a foot-hold, that the dates of 1732 and 1733, which we have relating to the church, began to appear, which has given the impression the church was then formed. Thus, regardless of which branch was first formed, since they merged into one, and this settlement being of at least five years the senior of Fox's dorf, the present Reformed church must be the parent church of the valley.

Through the politeness to present, and care to preserve, Mr. Hiram Zielie, of Webster City, Iowa, a grandson of Martinus Zielie, has furnished us with a few facts as recorded in his Grandfather's Low Dutch Bible. Upon the fly-leaf it says, "Our new brick church was dedicated on December the 18th day, 1737. Text from the Acts of the Apostles, 7th Chap. 47 to 50th verses inclusive. Rev. Dominie Snider Preacher."

Tradition has told us the building was of stone, and "built after the model of the ancient Dutch church in Albany, with a steeple rising from the center, but reference was had to the Fox's dorf church in the style of building. From French's history we learn that Johannes Schaffer, Hendrick, Conradt, and Johannes Ingold, sold fourteen acres of land to Jonas LeRoy and Peter Spies for the support of the Middle church on January 3, 1737.

Now the question is, was it a High or Low Dutch church originally. It is thought by many to have been the latter. We are of the opinion that it was the former, from the fact that if it had been a Low Dutch, the building would have been placed upon the Low Dutch ground, upon which the present church stands. Without doubt both branches worshipped within the same building at this time.

The ground upon which the building was placed, was that, or a part of it, which was the "bone of contention" between the Palatines, Schuyler and others who purchased it of Hunter in 1714. It will be remembered the Germans refused to quit the land or to pay rent. They built their houses upon it, and the church also, and did not receive a title of the church property until years after. By a quit-claim deed now in the possession of Henry Cady, bearing date the "18th of June, in the twenty-sixth year of His Majesty's reign, Anno Domini, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-three, for the sum of Five shillings current money of New York," twenty-seven acres of land were conveyed by Myndert Schuyler, Margaret Livingston, Philip Livingston, Philip Schuyler and Johannes Bough (Bouck,) of Albany, to Johannes Schuyler, minister; Bartholomew Vroman, Josias Swart and Thomas Eckerson, elders; Johannes Becker, Jun., rector; O. Zielie and David Laroway, deacons; for church purposes. The land was divided into small lots, and many of them are still owned by the church, being leased to the occupants at a yearly rental. As the Reformed church at Schoharie was organized as a "High Dutch," and soon wafted over to the control of Low Dutch, so we think it was the case with this organization. The Low Dutch found here, among whom were the Vromans, Zielies, Beckers and the Holland Ecker-

sons, were more business men than the Germans. The latter had not but of late, been commanders of affairs, but objects of command, and knew but little of transacting business, while with the Low Dutch it was the reverse. When the church was burned in 1780, all religious services were performed in the middle fort, and after peace was proclaimed, and as soon as the settlers recuperated in a measure their losses, effort were made to re-build. In the spring of 1785, the work commenced and occupied the summer months of 1786 and '87, in its completion. The control of church affairs at this time, was entirely under the Low Dutch, and the new building was placed upon the fourteen acres purchased in 1737, for the "support of the Dutch church." The people being poor, timber and other materials were donated by them, as also labor and rum, the latter to revive drooping spirits. Col. Peter Vroman, the hero of the middle fort, was the treasurer, and to show his manner of doing business and the materials thought necessary to build a church in those days, we will copy from a few "items of interest," as kindly furnished us by Mr. A. B. Richmond, of Canajoharie, and Henry Cady, of Schoharie, besides papers relating to the building, etc., of the church:—

"10 galon RUM" and "4 Gallons of rum and eighteen drinks" were charged against the church. Peter Vroman refused to allow the eighteen drinks. "1 pound tobacco." stores, lumber and wood were contributed by different ones, each allowed a certain sum for the same. A petition was forwarded to the legislature for aid, bearing date "18 Oct., 1784," stating that "Sir John Johnson with a party of British Regular troops, Tories and Indians, on the 17th day of Oct., 1780, Came and allmost destroyed the Settlement of Schoharry by fire and other ways, among which was the church of your petitioners, which was intirely burnt and destroyed on the said day which was valued at five hundred pounds, etc."

Another was forwarded to the city officials of Albany, asking the privilege of circulating a subscription to aid in the building of the church, bearing date 1785; also a general subscription and petition "To the publick," asking "aid in

re-building church destroyed by the enemy," dated 1785.

The edifice was nearly three years in building, it being commenced in the fall of 1784, and finished in the summer of 1787. The funds were chiefly obtained by subscriptions circulated in every direction, and the work performed by the people of the vicinity, under Philip Schuyler, "carpenter and joiner." Tradition tells us the iron figures, 1786, placed upon the front of the belfry, were the work of one Lutwig Schneider, a blacksmith, who also made the "stays" placed in the brick walls.

Josiah Dodge, the progenitor of the present Dodge family of the town, was entrusted with the contract to supply the necessary timbers required in the construction of the church, for which he gave the following receipt:—

"Schoharry, July 7, 1786, Rec^d of Johannes H. Becker, Peter Ziele and Peter Vroman, trustees of the Reformed Low Dutch Church, the full sum of twenty-two pounds ten shillings, being in full for cutting the timber for the church. I say Rec^d by me. JOSIA DODGE.

From time "immemorial" the organization owned an old-fashioned chest, quite probably brought from Germany or Holland by some of the first settlers, in which the funds of the church and documents were kept. For long years it was in the Becker family, and held by them through the Revolution, and down to within the last forty years. It disappeared, however, and at the present time, is not to be found, while the papers relating to the church, that so long found a secure place within its "tills," are scattered here and there, and are made in many cases, articles of barter among the collectors of old relics. However, a few of the many are in the possession of the officers of the church, that are valuable through the associations connected with them, and the organization to which they properly belong. Among them is one that refers to the old chest, which reads:—

"Schohare, June 1st, 1789. This day counted the Money Which is in the Chichst of the Low Dudget Church. Two pound thirteen Shillings.

JOHN J. BECKER,
JOHN A. BECKER."

Also the charter bearing date, 21st of October, 1797, which is upon parchment, and signed by "Rynier VanNese, minister; Pieter Zielie, Adam Vroman, Jacob Hager, and Peter Swart, elders; John A. Becker, John P. Becker, Martinus Vroman, Jr., and Johannes Hager, deacons." There are also others, many of which are written in Dutch.

Pastors of the Reformed Church.—As the first records of the church are lost, it is impossible to arrive at any accuracy in regard to them. The "Reformed Church Manual" gives the date of organization, 1732, and it may be correct, but we have our doubts, and believe light will yet be given to prove it an error. It also says the first pastor was Schuyler (Johannes,) who was the Schoharie Reformed pastor from 1736, to 1755, and again from 1766, to his death. We have found through the Zielie Bible, Dominie Snyder was the preacher at the dedication, and by tradition coming through the Eckerson family, that Snyder was the first resident pastor of this church. Ministers were not plenty at that day, and if Schuyler was, or was to be the regular pastor, we think he would have performed the service. If we were to make the list of pastors, it would be headed with Henry Hager,* from 1713 to 1720, also John Frederick Hager, and John Jacob Ehle and George Weiss, as missionaries, until the pastorate of Dominie Snyder commenced, in 1732, and perhaps earlier. Between this date and 1763, this church, as did the Schoharie and others, ranged itself with the "Dutch Reformed church," to form an "American Ecclesiastical Indiciary."

During Schuyler's first pastorate at Schoharie, we think Dominie Snyder officiated here, and may have been the High Dutch minister, as it is said by many of the old families, that they were told by their aged grandparents, that Snyder was here a long term of years. If Schuyler preached here within that period, he doubtless preached to the Low Dutch branch, but we think Snyder was the regular minister, and both High and Low Dutch worshipped together at this time. Upon Schuyler's re-call at Schoharie, in 1766, he then took charge of this church, in connection, and officiated until his death, in

1778. If Schuyler had charge of this church from 1736 to 1755, and the connection between the two churches continued, then Johannes Mauritinus Goetchins labored here from 1757, to 1760, Abraham Rosenkrantz to 1765, and followed here by Schuyler, in 1766. Schuyler dying in 1778, a young man officiated occasionally, by the name of Schneyder, until the invasion of Johnson and Brant, when the people were so thrown in confusion and poverty, that church matters stood still until peace was proclaimed. The next and first resident pastor was Rynier VanNess, from Long Island, who remained to the coming of DeVoe, in 1808, who preached. The latter remained to the year 1815, and from that to the present time we will accept the list given in the Manual.

1816-1827—J. F. Schermckorn.

1827-1833—J. Garretson.

1834-1838—J. B. Steele.

1840-1842—Joshua Boyd.

1842-1845—L. Messerreau, Presbyterian Sunday school.

1845-1852—Jacob West.

1852-1854—I. M. See.

1855-1863—E. Vedder.

1863—W. E. Bogardus.

1863-1870—John L. Lott, D. D.

1870-1876—Sanford W. Roe, D. D.

1876-1880—J. S. Gardner.

1880—Elbert N. Sebring, present pastor.

The church at the present time, is one of the leading ones of the County in earnest interest, liberality, and promptness of duty to all religious demands, without that boisterous display that is so often practiced by many of our modern churches, and which reverts the desired and intended aim. The membership numbers one hundred and fifteen, among whom are many of the leading families of the community, who take a just pride in the ancient organization and church edifice. The exterior of the building is the same as when first built, with the exception of a portion of the steeple which was remodeled in a measure in 1813, when the first bell was purchased and placed within it. The interior has been changed at different times, to suit the changing taste of the acting generations, and has lost nearly all of its originality, except in the

* Corwin's Manual.

height of the gallery, which remains the same, and gives to the whole an ancient appearance.

The report of the church for the year ending the 1st of April, 1882, was as follows:—

Number of families, 90.

Died, 1.

Total in communion, 115.

Number of catechumens, 20.

Total number of Sunday School scholars, 100.

Contributions for religious and benevolent purposes, \$58.25.

For congregational purposes, \$1,063.39.

Present officers:—

Elders,

Peter S. Danforth,
M. Geurnsey,
W. G. Becker,
James Lawyer, M. D.,
George L. Danforth.

Deacons,

George W. Zeh,
George W. Dodge,
W. E. Bassler,
Jacob L. Engle,
Joseph Jenks.

Referring thus to the Reformed church, we will give notice here of the remaining churches, although they are of a more recent date, and then run back to objects of long ago, when many of those who lie sleeping beneath the green turf of the ancient cemetery, were

"Actors in life's drama,"

and their children that lived when

"Discord raised its trumpet's notes,
And carnage beat its horrid drum."

The Lutheran Church.—Upon the records we read:

"St Marks Evangelical Lutheran church was founded the 17th May, A. D., 1824, Rev. Geo. A. Lintner, A. M. pastor."

"Elders—Andreas Loucks, Abraham Lawyer, Joseph Borst.

"Deacons—Wilhelmus Bouck, Jeremiah Loucks, Abram Haines.

"Trustees—Jacob Livingston, William C. Bouck, Joseph I. Borst, Thomas Bouck, Abram Haines, Joseph Bouck, Philip Bergh, Jun., Freeman Stanton, John Henry.

"Architect—James Rider.

"Other foundations can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus. 1st Cor. iii 2."

This congregation, originally was in connection with Schoharie, Cobleskill and Breakabeen, but at the close of Dr. Lintner's pastorate, which was fifteen years, it became a separate charge with Breakabeen and after became independent. The first house of worship was erected in 1824, and was dedicated on the 30th of October of that year. The building was burned on the 1st of April, 1855, and was not replaced until the year 1870, when the present structure was erected. The society worshipped in the intervening time in the school house, and other churches.

The records from Dr. Lintner's pastorate to the year 1860, are not complete, and while we know of the pastors that followed him, we are unable to tell their given names and the years in which they labored.

1824—1839—Rev. George A. Lintner.

1834—1844—Rev. — Lefler.

Rev. — Crounse.

Rev. Levi Sternbergh.

Rev. — Conell.

Rev. — English.

1860—1865—Adam Martin.

1865—1871—David Swope.

1871—1873—E. S. Sprecker.

1873—1876—C. P. Witacar.

1876 —J. D. Harkey, present pastor.

The officers are:—

Elders—E. Van Aucken, J. E. Young, D. D. Bouck, L. S. Wells.

Deacons—G. N. Frisbee, Emmet Haines, H. M. Marcellus, John Rickard.

Trustees—Jacob Neville, N. Manning, G. N. Frisbee.

The Lutheran Sabbath school under the superintendence of Mr. J. E. Young, editor of the *Middleburgh Gazette*, is a marked feature of

the church's spirit and consists of one hundred and twenty-five teachers and scholars.

The Methodist Church.—The Methodist Church edifice is the largest and most costly structure for divine worship in the County.

While this society's existence has been short in comparison with the Reformed and Lutheran, yet its present prosperous condition exhibits the energy and spirit that is so becoming in the laborers of the "vineyard."

The first notice of an organization was read by Rev. John W. Dennison in the school house of District No. 7, of this town on the 1st day of December, of 1832, and on the 9th of the same month the following were elected trustees:

Malachi Potter,
Anthony Engle,
Peter W. Mann,
James Sternberg,
Harvey Watson.

An edifice was built at the head of Main street in the same year, which became too small for the congregation, and which forced the society to build the present structure in 1875, at a cost of thirty-five thousand dollars. Through the labors and courtesy of Rev. James L. Atwell, the present pastor, we find the records complete. Among them is a list of the Presiding Elders of the Albany District, since the year 1832. As a goodly share of the County is in his jurisdiction, under the Methodistical system we will here give them, with the year in which they presided.

1832-1835—Henry Stead.
1836-1839—Miner Sherman.
1840-1843—Charles Sherman.
1844-1847—Ephraim Gorse.
1848 —John Lindsey died.

John Clark was elected to fill vacancy and remained till 1851.

1852-1855—Truman Seymour.
1856-1859—Henry L. Starks.
1860-1863—William Griffin, D. D.
1864-1867—Rodman H. Robinson.
1868-1871—Samuel Meredith.
1872-1875—Chester F. Burget.
1876-1879—Homer Eaton, D. D.
1880 —J. L. Sawyer, present incumbent.

The pastors of the congregation have been as follows:—

1832—John Harlam and John Dennison.
1833—William Ames.
1834—James R. Goodrich.
1835—Roswell Kelly and Henry Williams.
1836—Roswell Kelly and Henry Burton.
1837-1838—Henry Coleman and Peter W. Smith.
1839—Henry Williams, Valentine Brown and Joseph Crounse.
1840-1841—Hiram Chase.
1842—David Poor, Isaac DeVoe.
1843—David Poor, Charles Gilbert.
1844—Amos Osborne,
1845-1846—Madley Witherell.
1847-1848—Charles E. Giddings.
1849-1850—John W. Belknap.
1851-1852—Charles DeVoe.
1853-1854—Bishop Isbell.
1855-1856—J. D. Burnham.
1857-1858—Selah W. Brown.
1859-1860—John Pegg.
1861-1862—William Clark.
1863-1864—Horace L. Grant.
1865-1866-1867—Jeremiah S. Hart.
1868-1869—Aaron D. Heaxt.
1870-1871—James B. Wood.
1872-1874—John A. Savage.

The foregoing officiated in the old church while the following have officiated in the new.

1875 —Sylvester W. Clemins.
1876-1877—Charles F. Noble.
1878-1880—John L. Atwell, present pastor.

The class-leaders are at present (1881):

H. D. Wells, M. D.,
S. Requa,
John H. Cornell,
L. D. Mann,
E. Winegar,
John Avery,
M. Rickard.

The trustees are:—

H. D. Wells, M. D.,
Almerin Cornell,
J. H. Malory,
G. E. Borst,
W. H. Albro.

The Stewards are :—

G. S. Lynes,
J. H. Cornell,
A. L. Vroman,
Harvey Borst,
George W. Vroman,
R. F. Noxin,
C. A. White,
J. B. Niffin,
Austin France.

The church membership is 310, and the Sabbath school, under the superintendence of Austin France, is the largest and most interesting in the County, numbering twenty-eight officers and teachers and three hundred and ten scholars.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church.—From the records of this church we copy the following :

"The first service of the Episcopal church, held at Middleburgh, seems to have been about the year 1852, by a missionary stationed at Schoharie, who used to come over occasionally, bringing a melodion and singer with him, and officiated in the Methodist house of worship, then standing near the old Dutch grave-yard.

REV. M. HAYDEN.

"In the year 1853, the Rev. M. Porter, of Schoharie, began to hold regular services here. In the year 1854, owing to the influence of Mr. and Mrs. David Beekman, M. Porter was induced to remove to Middleburgh, and the project of building a church was set on foot.

"For the building of the church, a subscription was raised by general contributions in the village, on the understanding that the edifice was also to be used for school purposes, under the auspices of the Episcopal church, but that the religious instruction imparted in said school, if any, was not to be distinctively Episcopalian, in other words, it was not to be a parish school.

"In addition to the amount locally contributed, the sum of about five hundred dollars was received from the church authorities of the diocese of New York, to aid in the erection of the building.

"The service books (now in use in the church,) and the communion plate, were donated

by members of the family of the late Bishop Wainwright, of New York, and the organization took the name of the Wainwright Institute and Chapel, but was subsequently changed to St. Luke's church of Middleburgh.

"Mr. Porter taught a school during his incumbency. The church was finished in the autumn of 1855.

"Mr. Porter was succeeded by Rev. Mr. McIlwaine, who did not continue the school. He remained but five months, and was followed by Rev. Mr. Hedges, who, with his wife, conducted the school with success.

"He remained two years, and owing to ill health, resigned, and the Rev. M. Bishop succeeded him, who was in Deacon's orders. The next rector was Rev. T. K. Coleman, who remained two years.

"After some years, Rev. Edwin Slade came as a missionary, and in April, 1868, was elected rector.

"During his incumbency, the Rectory was built, and in 1870, he left the Parish. 1872 brought Rev. George G. Jones, who closed his connection in 1873, and was succeeded in that year, by Rev. Joseph E. Lindholm, who remained until October, 1875. In the latter year, Rev. M. Nisbett followed, and closed his term in 1879.

"In October, 1879, the Rev. H. C. E. Costelle took charge. * * *

In the latter part of 1879, a class for catechetical instruction was formed with four children, which grew to a Sabbath-school, and at this time, March 1, 1881, is not in order."

The officers are :

Wardens—Samuel Dennison, William H. Engle.

Vestrymen—Joseph J. Efner, Charles Bouck, Ralph P. Hyde, and others.

The True Reformed Church.—The organization of the above church is not now kept up, but about the year 1836 it was one of the working congregations of the place. In that year the present dilapidated church edifice was built, but the pulpit has never been supplied by a resident

pastor. Henry and Marcus Bellinger, of Sharon, were the main pastors, in connection with other churches scattered around the eastern part of the State. The latter gentleman, a short time previous to his death, in a conversation with the writer, claimed this charge as a monument of his labors in the cause of Christ. While their strict Calvinistic doctrines are looked upon as peculiar by the majority of the Biblical scholars of the nineteenth century, we find large congregations here and there that closely adhere to them and hold a power but little realized by those of unlike religious sentiments.

Middle Fort.—We have thus given considerable space to the affairs relating to the Reformed church, as the organization is the oldest landmark in the town, and around the history of which there has been a cloud of doubts. We will now turn to the next object of interest, the old Fort, which recalls the stirring events of the Revolution and awakens a deep, deserving pride of patriotic ancestry.

The portion of the building that remains was the wing or kitchen part of Johannes Becker's mansion, and was first barricaded with rails and timbers, to serve as a fort on the threatened invasion of Captain McDonald and Crysler in August, 1777. The militia and continental soldiers that assembled here upon that day marched up the valley to meet the foe, as stated in Chapter III, and the miniature fort was not utilized upon the occasion, except to shelter the patriots upon their return. Being centrally situated and in the midst of a prosperous farming section, when the authorities located buildings for defense, later in the fall of 1777, this house was chosen and made as impregnable as their means and material would allow. By looking over the ground, and bearing in mind the number of citizens and soldiers that frequently assembled here, besides what tradition tells us, there must have been nearly three acres enclosed within the pickets.

The barn belonging to the farm was enclosed and stood about ten rods to the east of the house and was used as barracks for the soldiers together with another building built for the same purpose to the south of it. The citizens built

huts for their own accommodation within the enclosure, and to them they resorted each night for safety. By the side of the house, which was about thirty by fifty and joined the wing on the south, was a staging or cupola that overlooked the valley and in which the patriots stood upon the eventful 17th of October, and directed their death dealing missiles in the enemy's ranks. "Upon the Northeast and Southwest corners of the enclosure," says author Simms, "were block-houses where cannons were mounted." "A brass nine-pound cannon was mounted on the southwest and an iron one at the diagonal corner, each of which as the block houses projected, commanded two sides of the inclosure."

An oven was built in which forty loaves of bread could be baked at a time, and in which, weekly, were put the neighborhood's bakings. An old lady tells us, her mother looked back to the time spent in the old fort with the most pleasing recollection. We have numbered no less than ten marriages that tradition tells us were contracted here between the sturdy soldiery and the buxom, warm-hearted girls that necessity compelled to remain a goodly share of the time at the fort. Here we may say that a better opportunity of selecting a "help meet" could not be presented, and a better class to select from was not to be found. It is a fact worthy to be brought to notice that the girls and women of those days were, exceptionally, robust, vigorous, healthy, and through the teachings of their religious mothers, conscientious to a fault, tidy and industrious, affable and exemplary. Beneath the present building was the magazine that was so faithfully guarded by Colonel Vroman upon the day of battle, and which held such a meagre supply of powder that the Colonel was fearful of the consequences in letting his men know the fact.

He stood firm and dealt it out himself, saying each time, "there is plenty left"—"fire away and make each shot count!" When we consider the strength of the foe, at least four to one—and the destitution of the garrison, powder, bullets and nearly everything, we cannot but admire the patriot's courage and fortitude there displayed, and not wonder at the fears Major Woolsey entertained of making an effort to oppose the blood-thirsty foe. But they were

brave hearts, not petted by honors of position, but by hardship and privations, that swelled in contempt and disdain, to falter in their purpose of opposing the desecrators of their homes and firesides. The main force of the enemy marched direct to the east of the garrison from the old church they burned, (which stood about four rods back of Wallace Rickard's residence) and took their station upon a knoll a little north of east, and upon lower ground to the north of it, and threatened the annihilation of the little fort. Why a greater effort was not made to force the patriots to surrender is a mystery, as their army was sufficient to have stopped all communication with the upper and lower forts, and inevitably have starved them out, if a surrender could not have been effected in any other way. Undoubtedly the obstinacy the patriots displayed in firing upon the flag of truce, before it was fairly started, led Johnson to believe they were assured they could cope successfully with him. Simms in his "Border Wars" says, of the effect the British guns had upon the garrison: "Three shells were well thrown from this position by the enemy at the fort and many cannon shot were fired, but with less precision, the most of them passing entirely over the destined object. The first shell fired sang in the air like a pigeon, and exploded directly over the house and as its fragments fell upon the roof, Mrs. Richtmyer, an old lady, then in an upper room, who had been an invalid and unable to rise alone from her bed for a long time, was so frightened that she sprang from it, and went below, surviving the effect but a short time. The second fell within the pickets near the well, and while the fuse was burning off and the ball dancing in a mud-hole, every person exposed to its explosion had ample time to gain a respectful distance, and it scattered its fragments without injuring any one. The third fell through the roof of the main building, and lodging on a pile of feather beds in the chamber, exploded, tearing the beds to pieces, doing little other mischief, except that of frightening Christian Rickard, an old bachelor, who chanced to be in the room, almost to death. The explosion completely filled the room with feathers, and groping his way down stairs, Rickard made his appearance below, where many of the women and

children were, covered with feathers, and spitting out down from his mouth, which sudden fear had caused him to open too widely for such an atmosphere. When asked what had happened, he replied in Low Dutch—"I think the devil is in the chamber, for the feathers fly around so I cannot see."

Through Mrs. Van Slyck, a daughter of Colonel Vroman, Author Simms relates an incident that occurred in the Fort that was another example of American valor and patriotism, worthy to be inscribed upon our country's tablets of honor. Nicholas Sloughter, who acquired the reputation of a good soldier, had a very sick child in the Fort, and as he was leaving it with a party of volunteers under Murphy, was told that his child appeared to be dying, and he had better remain. "I can do the child no good," was his reply. "My duty is to protect the *living* as well as the *dying*." Though it may seem to have been unfeeling in the soldier, yet Duty was his watchword, and domestic cares and affections were sacrificed and laid upon his country's altar, as the price of her liberty and independence.

Parties were sent out from the fort through the day to capture straggling enemies and save property that was being burned by the revengeful Tories, but little could be accomplished as the force drew together, and to attack them in the open fields would have been a foolish attempt. We find each did their duty well, and those mentioned by the historian Simms, whose descendants are still in the valley were Lieutenant Martinus Zielie, and his cousin Martinus Zielie, Nicholas Sloughter, John Wilber, Major Eckerson, Timothy Murphy, Peter VanSlyck, Bartholomew Vroman, Joachim Folluck, Susanna Vroman, David Elerson, George Richtmyer, Dr. John King and the brave Colonel Vroman.

The old fort and grounds are now owned by David Zeh, whose care of them is commendable, but the ancient walls begin to crack and totter, and soon will fall, and pass from view.

Firing upon the Flag.—We are informed by the grandsons of Martinus Zielie that when the flag of truce advanced from General Johnson's ranks, towards the fort, that Zielie himself fired upon it, as he stood by the side of Murphy.

When Woolsey reprimanded him for so doing Murphy shouted "You be damned." When the act was repeated by Murphy he swore he would blow "his (Woolsey's) damned brains out before the flag should enter."

When Zielie fired upon the flag, he did so by Murphy's order, the latter withheld his own to repel the Major if he made an attempt to carry his threat of "running them through" with his sword if they repeated the act. The second time the flag advanced, Murphy was maddened to a high pitch and fired upon it himself, at the same time daring Woolsey to attempt to execute his threat. By the side of Murphy and Zielie stood Elerson and Bartholomew Vroman, either of whom would have dispatched the Major if he had attempted to injure Murphy. Martinus Zielie died near Auburn, N. Y., November 2, 1833, in the eighty-ninth year of his age. His children removed to Wisconsin and Iowa, and ever regretted, as they had a right to, the absence of the father's name in history in connection with the events of the 17th of October, 1780.

Zielie Family and House.—At what particular time the Zielie family came to the Schoharie valley, we are unable to learn for a certainty, but at some time previous to 1732. They were Hollanders, and children of Peter Zielie and Cornelia Dawen, who first settled upon Long Island, at a very early date. We find two brothers, Peter and David, who came to the valley about the year 1725, were the first ones bearing the name in Schoharie. Peter married Anna Ackerson the 4th of June, 1724, and David married Engeltie Vroman, daughter of Peter, as noticed in Chapter XIII. The former had ten children and the latter seven.

The property the family possessed lay around the present old stone house, called the "Zielie house," and during the Revolution, it was in the possession of Peter U. (sometimes written Peter W.), and afterwards became the property of his brother, Johannes. When Johnson and Brant's forces came in sight of the village, the Zielie family were at home, and each member hastily caught up some article of furniture, and ran to the fort. An old negro, then a slave, belonging to the family, took down a looking-glass he knew

was highly prized by them, it having been brought from Holland many years before, and ran for dear life. Being rather clumsy, he tripped, fell upon the glass and cracked it. It was preserved, however, and fell into the hands of Martinus Zielie, brother of Peter, above mentioned, and upon his removal to Cayuga county, and his children to the distant west, it was taken along, and now can be seen at the home of Hiram Zielie, a grandson of Martinus, in Webster City, Iowa. The glass fell from the frame a few years ago, and broke in several pieces, but the largest was placed in a neat oval frame, and is much prized by the family. Colonel Peter W. Zielie, was the Peter U. above referred to, and lived after the war upon the farm now occupied by Hezekiah Swart. He had but two children, both daughters. Cornelia married Johannes Becker, son of Johannes, the owner of the stone fort. Upon the death of Mr. Becker, by drowning, she married VanEpps. The other daughter, Elizabeth, married Tunis Swart. Not having a son, the Colonel adopted his nephew, Peter Swart, the father of Mrs. J. M. Scribner, the late Tunis Swart, of Schoharie, and Peter Z. Swart, Mrs. George Danforth, and Mrs. Benoni Spafford. The old German clock, owned by Colonel Zielie, is now in the possession of Mrs. Scribner, and is a relic of great worth. Its movements are as "good as new," after a continued use of at least, one hundred and twenty-five years, if not one hundred and fifty. It was re-cased, as were many others in the valley, by one "Vogel," who was a dealer in clocks, (and undoubtedly the first "jeweler" in the valley,) for many and long years ago. The Low Dutch Beckers, of Middleburgh, the Zielies, Swarts, Eckerson and Vroman families, became wonderfully mixed up in marriage, as will be seen by noticing each family lineage. These families were, in early times, the aristocrats of the valley, having come here with abundant means; but through the losses occasioned by Indian and Tory invasions, they were reduced to a level with their German neighbors, which, doubtless mitigated in a measure, the ill feeling that was early sown and nourished towards each other.

The Borst Family.—Besides the families already mentioned, that were early settlers, and

of which descendants may still be found, were the Borsts. They came as early as 1713 or 1714, and were Germans. The head of the family we believe to have been Jacob, whose sons were Joseph and Jacob, of Cobleskill, and Peter, of this town. They settled where James W. Davis now resides. Peter built a grist-mill a short time previous to the Revolution, which stood till the year 1795. That year the present "Davis mill" was built, and is now an interesting relic of other days. The frame is chiefly pine, and so well constructed that, upon the abutments being washed away a few years ago, the building sagged but one-half of an inch. The flooring was also pine, split out of large pine logs, to the thickness of three inches. One Forsyth was the builder, and tradition says he was assisted by one hundred men, in its erection.

Peter's son Peter, called "Tauty," followed him in the milling business, who was brother to Michael, the inn-keeper near the Reformed church. The second Peter's son, Peter P., was also a miller, and brother of Milton Borst, now of the Cobleskill mill. William and Peter, sons of the last Peter P., are now owners of the mill above, of late years known as the "Borst mill." Mr. J. W. Davis purchased the old "Borst mill" property in 1858, after it had been in the Borst family's possession, at least one hundred and thirty years, and he is anticipating a gala day when the centennial year of the present structure arrives. During the war, this immediate neighborhood was in sympathy with the royal cause, and the old mill was left standing to furnish supplies, and to it, the citizens of all principles were compelled to come, after the Eckerson mill was burnt. One of the family lived upon the farm now owned and occupied by Peter Zeh, and was true to the colonial cause. When Johnson's army was marching down the valley, on the 17th, Colonel Vroman dispatched Joseph Borst, a son, then a lad of fourteen, to Albany on horseback for assistance, but he did not return until the next day, and another messenger was sent as soon as the force left the valley.

The daughter of young Borst became the wife of Jacob Becker, and mother of the late David Becker and the present Hamilton, who is the only one left to perpetuate the patriotism of

Jacob's branch of the family. William, a brother of "Tauty," settled in Cobleskill, and was the father of the late Marcus and William Borst, Mrs. William Angle, Mrs. John Zielie, of Sharon, and Mrs. Marcus Sternburgh, of Cobleskill. Michael, for a number of years, kept a tavern near the Reformed Church, and a store where Duryea Beekman's residence stands, and after that removed to Breakabeen, and from there to Cobleskill. His children were John B., Peter M., Alexander, Michael, Jr., Elisha, William, and Mrs. Daniel Dodge.

The Becker Family.—As we before mentioned, the first and only Low Dutch Becker that settled in the valley did so upon the farm where the old stone fort now stands. Johannes was the father and came from Schenectady, sometime previous to 1737. He had two sons, Peter and Johannes, Jr. Peter married a Vedder, of Schenectady, and upon her death, Maria Vroman, daughter of Jonas Vroman. His children were, Henry who married Agnes Eckerson, and settled at "Schoharie Hill," now Prattsville. Adam, Jonas, Mrs. Bignell, and Mrs. John Becker. Johannes married Cornelia, daughter of Col. Zielie and their children were Storm, John and Harmonus. This family was firm in patriotism and did a vast amount of duty through the struggle, and became connected with all the leading families of the valley.

The Loucks Family.—A few years after the settlement of the Germans, the Loucks family removed from the Camps and settled upon the lands now occupied by John P. Loucks. This family came over from Germany with the immigration of 1710, but remained a short distance below the "camps," until, perhaps a final settlement of the land difficulties was made.

We are not certain what the head of the family name was, but believe it to have been Philip, and are led to think he possessed considerable property for those times. We find he purchased the land at this place of the Free-mire, or Frimire family, who afterwards settled in Cobleskill. The old gentleman also purchased lands in the present town of Sharon, upon which his descendants are settled at the present time, as we will notice in the chapter upon that town. We find there were four sons, Peter,

Cornelius, Andrew and William. Cornelius settled in Sharon, and the other brothers in this town. Andrew was the chorister in the Lutheran church at Schoharie, to whom Author Simms referred, and his children were Jeremiah, William and Mrs. William P. Loucks, of Sharon. Jeremiah was in the fort upon the 18th of October, and received a wound upon the head. He was the father of Henry J. Loucks, who resides upon the parental farm at the present time. William the brother retained the old place and was the father of the present owner and occupant, John P. Loucks. William, the brother of Andrew the singer, was an inveterate Tory as were the most of his family. He lived nearly opposite of Henry J. Loucks' present residence. His children were Andrew and Peter, of Sharon, Jeremiah of Middleburgh, and Mrs. John Ingold, Jr., of Schoharie. His children by his second wife were John W., Jacob, Henry, William W., David, Mrs. Storm Becker and Mrs. William Borst. The sons nearly all settled in Sharon.

When Johnson invaded the valley in 1780, all of the Loucks' buildings were burned with the exception of William's, which proved to be a resting place and supply station for Indians and prowling Tories throughout the war. There were quite a number of families in this neighborhood that sympathized with the Crown, and gave needed assistance to the enemy.

The Eckerson Family. First Merchants and Millers.—At some time previous to 1700, three brothers came to America from Holland, Thomas, Cornelius and John Eckerson. They brought with them, the family tradition says, a cargo of goods, but were shipwrecked when near New York harbor and lost them all. Being of a wealthy family they were again supplied with goods and traded in New York City for a while, when John settled upon Long Island, and Thomas and Cornelius wandered to the Schoharie valley and settled at Weiser's dorf, when quite advanced in years. We think their settlement here was about the year 1725, at least as early as that date. They engaged in trade, building a brick store upon the grounds now occupied by the residence of Dr. Linas Wells and a residence nearly opposite. The buildings stood at

the time of the invasion of Colonel Johnson, and were burned. Whether the settlers manufactured the bricks used in these buildings and the church built in 1737, or not, we are unable to say, but undoubtedly did, as to cart them from Albany or Schenectady, would have been a very tedious job, beside being expensive as they had not the roads, or necessary wagons etc., to transfer such heavy articles without great labor and untold inconveniences. As they had other tradesmen it is quite likely they had brick-makers.

Cornelius Eckerson was unmarried, but Thomas was fortunate at least in a financial point of view as well as in influence, to marry the daughter of a wealthy man and government official. His children were four sons and four daughters, namely, Thomas, Cornelius, Tunis, John, Agnes, Mrs. Henry Becker, who settled at Prattsville, Elizabeth, (Mrs. John Zielie,) Maria, (Mrs. Martinus Zielie) and Anna, (Mrs. Silas Gray, of Johnstown,) whose husband was a Colonel of the Revolution, stationed part of the time at the "middle fort." All of these children, tradition tells us, were married during the war.

Thomas Jr., as he will hereafter be called, married Margaret Slingerland, of Albany. The Eckersons were a business family, and were connected with all branches of industry that were started in the valley, as well as foremost in the church. The first mill at this place was built by them, and we find they possessed the present site of Steven's mill, near the stone fort at Schoharie, at an early date, and we think built the one that stood there in the Revolution. They were large land-holders, and when the Revolution commenced, were very wealthy for people of the frontier. Thomas Jr., was commissioned Major, and proved a loyal and efficient officer. Through some unknown cause, many of the descendants of this family have changed the name somewhat, by dropping the *son*, and writing only Ecker, while others go still farther, and drop the *E*, and supply with *A*, making it *Acker*.

Rev. R. Randal Hoes, a descendant of the family, says: "The founder of the family in this country was Jan Thomaszen, of New York City. About the year 1692, he assumed the surname Eckerson, which was retained by his chil-

dren as the family name. It is variously spelled in the New York Dutch Church records as Echons, Eckens, Eckeson, Etkins and Ekkisse, with several other slight modifications."

It is doubtful whether there was an earlier resident merchant at Weiser's dorf, than Eckerson. Indian traders occasionally visited the valley, from 1711 to 1740, and supplied the people with such goods as they desired, or which their merchants did not possess. Adam Vreman, of Schenectady, Johannes Lawyer, and Derick Swart, were early traders, and perhaps the Eckersons sallied out as such, and were led to settle down in the valley, lured by the beauty of scenery and the fair prospects of controlling a lucrative trade.

The grist-mill they built, stood a few rods below the present Reformed church sheds. A portion of the dam has been discovered of late, by the washing away of the bank, and exposing timbers used in the construction. They were perfectly sound.

The mill was burned by Johnson's force, and re-built soon after the close of the war, but was destroyed by a flood. Part of the dam was used for several years after, for sawing, and still later to run a machine in the manufacture of nails. A freshet, nearly sixty years ago, washed the old mark away.

The son Tunis, died in 1797, at the age of sixty-seven, and was buried in the old graveyard, beneath a rude stone, upon which his name, age and death are inscribed, and nearly obliterated by the moss of years. Not far distant is a large slab of sandstone, of ancient design, that marks the grave of Cornelia Van Dyke, who was born in 1724, and died in 1772.

Hartman's Dorf.—Of Hartman's dorf, little can be gleaned, beyond what too officious tradition tells. We believe it was settled in the spring of 1713, and was the land spoken of in the petition of 1720, copied in the first chapter of this work, as "they were obliged to solicit all the Indian Kings there adjoining, for more land, which they willingly granted 'em." The first lands purchased or "solicited" of the Indians were where Middleburgh now stands, which proved only enough for the "fifty families" that came with Weiser, who we believe formed two

settlements, one around the first church and one where the present Reformed church stands. As the "remainder of the people" came it became necessary to obtain more land, and consequently, Hartman's and the Feek and Crysler settlements were made.

Tradition tells us through the late Judge Brown that this "Dorf" consisted of about sixty-five houses, also that "here were the first apple trees planted to an orchard in Schoharie by Hans Wilhelm Kemmer." This dorf was named after Hartman Winedecker, a list-master at the camps. Undoubtedly he brought those that were under his supervision there with him to form this settlement. It stood upon the high ground to the south, nearly two miles from Weiser's town. It is somewhat singular that this and Garlock's dorf, the two largest of the valley, were swept out of existence leaving but a few marks, either by paper or otherwise. It is thought by many that the residents of the settlement went away with Weiser and his followers. If tradition is correct Weiser's settlement consisted of about sixty families at that time, and that number only followed him to Pennsylvania in 1722. Then where did they go? We think as the land which they occupied proved less fertile than the flats, and not perhaps willing to accede to the owners' price, they disbanded and united with their brethren in other dorfs and upon the Mohawk, leaving only the Bellinger and Rickard families in the dorf. In this way, perhaps, together with new arrivals from the camps and Germany the Weiser settlement was continued and other dorfs were formed after the exit of 1722.

As before stated, but few marks are left of this dorf. The largest portion of the settlement was upon the Bellinger brothers' farm, and principally stood to the east and south-east of their farm buildings. In plowing the grounds the location of many houses can be detected, and various household implements have been found around the original sites. We have been shown a lead spoon that was very much corroded, but still retaining its ancient shape. The "bowl" is broader and deeper than those of recent manufacture, and the stem or handle much shorter. The Bellingers have also found

knives that were nearly destroyed by rust, but of sufficient form to give an idea of their "style" and workmanship. One that undoubtedly has many times divided the venison "steak" and quartered many smoking johnny-cakes for the hungry Palatine, is yet in a good state of preservation, and proves to be of superior temper. The blade is short and narrow, and plainly shows it was a "home-made" article, as well as the spoon. Those relics are of great value, as they are all that is left of the utensils used by the settlers of Hartman's dorf. Several old apple tree stumps still remain that were, according to Judge Brown, the first trees planted in Schoharie.

The Bellinger brothers assure us that the first wheat sown or planted in the County was in the lot between the barn and highway.

Judge Brown says, in referring to Garlock's dorf:—"Here was an Indian Castle, though on the west side of the Schoharie creek, in which Lambert Sternbergh raised the first wheat that was ever raised in Schoharie." It is evident that Garlock's dorf was not settled as early as this dorf, that it was at least five years its junior, and it is not at all probable that the settlers were five, four, or three years in the valley before they experimented on the raising of wheat. If we are to believe that wheat was first raised at Garlock's, we are also to believe it was planted within the pickets of the castle, as stated, but when we consider that the castle was not built until after 1750, it will be seen that the Judge was in error. Lambert Sternbergh may have planted the first wheat, but was a resident of this dorf, and when Kneiskern's dorf was formed in 1728 and 1729, removed there and occupied in part the land upon which the castle was afterwards built, but previous to the removal, hundreds of bushels of wheat must have been raised yearly in the valley. The Judge was misinformed or misunderstood in this case, and without doubt the Bellinger tradition that has been handed down from one generation to another is correct.

The amount of wheat received from a skipple (one peck) planted, was eighty-three, as told by Brown and the Bellinger tradition showing that the same "planting" and result of harvesting was referred to by both.

But two families that first settled here remain upon the original ground. The Rickard or Rickert family is one, and was quite numerous in that day. As before stated, one family settled upon the Reformed church grounds and removed to Brunnen dorf with the Schaeffer's. One at least wandered to Pennsylvania with Weiser, and the other settled in this dorf near the mountain. Each family from that day to the present have been independent of each other and long years ago were referred to as the Hartman Rickerts, and Fountaintown Reckerts, and each at the present time trace their ancestry back to those dorfs, and still claim relationship.

The Bellinger Family.—Among the first settlers of this town was a Bellinger family. Three bearing that name, came over in 1710, whose names were Frederick, Henry, and Marcus, and settled upon lands now owned by John I., David and William J. Bellinger. One of the three settled upon the Mohawk, below Spraker's Basin, and one where Utica now stands. Marcus remained here and had one son, Johannes, from whom sprang the present Bellingers of the County. The sons of Johannes were Marcus, Peter and John. The latter settled in Sharon, Peter upon the Cobleskill, and Marcus retained the old homestead in Hartman's Dorf. He was Supervisor of "Schoharie" from 1767 to 1796, through all the forms of government that were in force during those years. His sons were Henry, the father of the present Marcus, and John M., the father of the present brothers that occupy the original homestead as before intimated. His children are David, William J., John I., Alexander, Mrs. Alexander Bouck, and Mrs. Philip Richtmyer. Each one of the children had large families, and with few exceptions, their descendants possess large estates, it being characteristic of the family to accumulate wealth.

The three that came across the ocean, were brothers and young men, and in after years, we find these Mohawk and Sharon Bellingers intermarried.

David, John I., and William J., living upon the east side of the creek, are sons of John M., and the lands upon which they reside, have been in the possession of the family at least one hundred and sixty-eight years.

The day Johnson was before the "middle fort" trying to gain admittance, Marcus Bellinger was on his way from the "lower" to the "middle fort" with a bag of powder upon his back, and when he gained his residence, which stood near the present one, he saw the smoke rising from the burning buildings above, and concluded he would be unable to reach the fort. He ran to the woods at the foot of the mountain and secreted himself until the enemy had passed down the valley. They burned his residence and barracks, which stood near, and one of the burnt posts still remains as sound as if but recently set.

Among the interesting relics of the past held by the family is a cannon ball, picked up upon the farm, that weighs over sixteen pounds. It must have been one left by Johnson and Brant, as the patriots had no use for such a projectile, from the fact that their guns were too small to carry it. Another "grim monster" of devastation and death may be seen at this place in the shape of an Indian tomahawk, that has the bowl of a pipe upon the back and a hole through the handle, to perform a double duty. After peace was proclaimed, Marcus Bellinger built the present residence, and for many years kept a tavern, as did his son, John M. The ball-room is overhead, and the well-worn floor tells us it was used much by the youngsters of those days, who took special pains to "hoe it down" without any regard to such grace and dignity as are implied in the poet's ideal dance when they "tripped the light fantastic toe."

Referring to relics, there are many still in the valley that date back to the first settlers, and are treasured, as they should be, by the descendants of the bold pioneers.

But a short distance from the old middle fort, Mr. Zeh, the present owner, dug a well, a few years ago, and at the depth of fourteen feet, came upon a thick layer of leaves in perfect form, but upon being exposed to the air, they crumbled to dust. Among the leaves were butternuts, that looked as sound as if they had lain but a season in water. Many arrow heads and Indian trinkets have been found near the fort, from time to time, especially upon the side-hill, to the east, which are treasured up by the citizens as sacred relics of Revolutionary days.

Among those that occupy the lands of Hartman's dorf, and perhaps purchased of the first settlers were the Richtmyer family.

The Richtmyer Family.—Three brothers, Peter, George and Christian, came from Germany together, about the year 1745 and settled at Hartman's dorf, upon the farm now owned and occupied by George Richtmyer. At a later date Peter settled in the present town of Conesville, and the two brothers divided the farm, George taking the south side of the brook and Christian the north. During the Revolution these families were staunch patriots, performing the trust of scout when not in service elsewhere. George received a Captain's commission in October, 1775, of the third company, and was at Bemis Heights and in every engagement that occurred in the valley. Christian was the most trusted scout, and was a special friend of Murphy and Tuffs, with whom many daring exploits were performed. He assumed the character of a spy and entered the British lines at Saratoga under the guise of a Hessian and accomplished his trust with safety and success. Perhaps there was not another one in the Schoharie valley that performed more hazardous duties than did Christian Richtmyer, and we are, by careful searching, assured none have been less referred to. Being quiet and reserved he did the work while others gained the praise, and soon after peace was proclaimed, ere he fairly breathed the pure air of freedom and rested his jaded limbs, disease, contracted by exposures, laid him in his grave. Two of his sons, Conrad and William, settled in Cobleskill in 1794, as stated in that chapter.

Captain George Richtmyer re-built his residence at the close of the war, and reared a large family, as follows:—David, who settled upon the Mohawk, Abram, in the Kilmer neighborhood of Cobleskill, Conrad and Henry, near Carlisle Centre, Mrs. David Becker, of Fox's creek, Mrs. John Jost Warner, of Schoharie, and George, Jr., who retained the old place, and was followed by his son, Peter, who kept a ✓ tavern for many years after John M. Bellinger closed his. George, the son of Peter, now occupies the place, and is the fourth generation in which the farm has been in their possession.

Mrs. Christian Richtmyer was in the "middle fort" the day of Johnson's invasion, and feeling indisposed—undoubtedly through fear—she lay upon one of her feather-beds that was taken there for safety—in the attic. As the bombs flew over the house she became frightened, and while descending the stairs, the bomb that hustled Rickard out of his retreat also tore open the bed she had just left, and scattered the feathers around the room. The same bed is now in the Loucks family, and through a machine renovation but a short time since, was made as "good as new."

Rebuilding of the village.—Having referred to settlers and matters of dates before and during the war, let us consider the re-building of the village, and the changes made by the onward march of intelligence.

As we have already stated, the people were made poor by the war, we may say with propriety, except in land. That remained, uninjured, but stripped of all improvements, and still theirs by title, yet they were poor, as a class, not having anything with which to bear the expenses of re-building. The Eckersons re-built a mansion and store. The store was abandoned and the "Inn" only, continued by the family. In 1811, one Watkins was the proprietor, and was followed successively by Dewitt & Knowlton. The building was chiefly built of the brick that was in the first storehouse that stood upon Dr. Linas Wells' grounds, and was burnt by Johnson. Many of the same were used in the construction of Dr. Henry Wells' present residence, and the Zielie's, the present store-house near the site of the old village. The Low Dutch being in control of the Reformed church, they superintended the erection of the edifice and placed it upon the grounds purchased by them in 1737, for the support of the "Low Dutch church of Middletown and Schoharie." Having thus erected the church near the creek, the settlement naturally drew towards it and in a few years quite a village was formed around it.

Michael Borst built an inn to the north of the church, that was for many years a terror to the moral part of the community. The present residence of Mrs. John M. Scribner was built soon after 1790 by Michael Borst, as a first class

residence, and still stands as a creditable relic of the march, progress made, after peace and freedom spread their exhilarating influences over the valley. Immediately after the war closed, Alexander Boyd came to the place and engaged in business and proved to be a very energetic and useful man. He was born in Philadelphia, of Irish parentage, and while a young man located in Albany and came from that city to this place. He labored for the Eckerson's on the mill for a while, and about the year 1800, built a mill where William and Peter Borst's mill now stands. The old building yet stands and is used as a wagon house by the Borst Brothers.

Mr. Boyd was quite a politician, as we find him in 1813 to 1815 in Congress, and at different times holding local offices, and we may here mention the fact that during the campaign of General Jackson's second election, Mr. Boyd was considered the most obstinate man in the County. Colonel William Dietz, of Schoharie, was upon the Electoral ticket and the County endeavored to give the largest majority, according to numbers, of any county in the State. Middleburgh was to do her best and upon election day gave every vote cast in the town for Dietz, with but one exception. Alexander Boyd refused to desert his Federal principles for etiquette, and cast his ballot for Henry Clay. Among papers in the possession of Henry Cady we find the following, penned by Boyd, bearing date March 5, 1822:—

"For value received I promise to deliver unto Peter Vrooman a Good new Iron Shod two horse wagon on or before the first of August next as witnessed my hand

ALEXANDER BOYD."

Wagons at that time for farm use were made with and without a tire. The first "iron shod" wagon wheels were made by bolting the tire on in sections instead of being welded together as now. He built the grist-mill at Cobleskill in 1830 and engaged in all kinds of business in which profit was to be gained. The wife of Jehiel Larkin, of Sloansville, is a daughter of Mr. Boyd and we believe the only member of the family in the County. Mr. Boyd hired workmen to manufacture wagons and did a heavy business for those times. But very few light

wagons were made, especially buggies, and if it were possible for him to appear before the repository of McGraw & Barney and examine the workmanship of those mechanics, he would consider their slender work as but "reeds in the wind."

J. M. Scribner purchased the Boyd mill property and built a large grist and paper mill in 1855. In justice to worth, we cannot pass by without giving notice of Mr. Scribner as he was as talented a business man as the County ever claimed. He was born in the town of Washington, Orange county, Vermont, in 1805, and graduated at Union College in 1833. He studied for the ministry and attended the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1836. His first charge was at the Schoharie Reformed church and Gallupville, where he labored from 1836 to 1839. He removed to Walden, Orange county, in the latter year and remained three years. Finding a broad field for usefulness which was more congenial to his health and taste, he took charge of the Auburn Female Seminary, and after, of the Rochester Female School and returned to Middleburgh in 1845, and engaged his mind upon Mathematics, in which branch of science he proved himself without a superior. His work on "Mensuration," the "Ready Reckoner," "Scribner's Engineers' and Mechanics' Companion," "Engineers' Pocket Table-book," and other mathematical works, have gained for him an enviable and enduring reputation as a superior mathematician. The first edition of his "Engineers' and Mechanics' Companion," appeared in 1845, and to give an idea of the value of the work we will here state that the fourteenth edition was published in 1866. Mr. Scribner was a thorough business man possessing the qualities to originate and drive an enterprise to the advantage of the community. He was a terse writer, active and practical thinker, and in all his relations with the business world he based every act upon principles of right and honesty. During his last years he was engaged in the manufacture of straw paper, having leased the "Richmondville mill" for a term of years, and carried the enterprise on with success. He was one of the originators

of the Schoharie Valley Railroad and long a director of the same. His death occurred December 20, 1880, after a short illness. The Classis of Schoharie held a meeting at Middleburgh on the 22d of December, and passed appropriate resolutions expressive of his worth, and the loss of the church and community in his death.

John Hinman.—A short distance above "Bull's Head," there lived for many years John Hinman who was a Yankee, and as competent to build a house, threshing machine, or plead a case in a justice court, as to make a wagon and iron it. He left his parents, then living in Lebanon, Conn., when but a lad, to seek his fortune in the western wilds, and after drifting here and there, settled in this village about the year 1816. After being absent from home three years, he wrote to his mother, saying: "Mother, I have thirteen linen shirts," which was his entire stock of worldly goods. In answer, which was equally as laconic, she wrote: "John, you have done well." In the course of time he married a daughter of Frederick Pausley, and settled down to business. He made the first threshing machines manufactured in the County, which were his own invention. The power was a "sweep," and driven by one horse, which will be remembered by those whose memories carry them back fifty years ago. Upon the opening of John O'Brien's law office, Hinman began to read law and fitted himself to try civil cases. Upon the decease of Mrs. Hinman, he married her sister who became the mother of Nathan P. and Chauncey W. Hinman, whose connection with the bar of the County has been conspicuous. The education of those two gentlemen was undoubtedly as meager as any of the present bar, not having any better opportunities than were offered by the district school of the village, which was at that time of very low grade. It is with characteristic humor they both refer to their "schooling" as being "baked," from the fact that it was one of the common modes of punishment for the mischievous, to compel them to lie down upon the floor and put the head beneath the box-stove and remain there in a scorching heat, until the teacher felt disposed to release

them. The venerable H. H. Marsellus, upon taking the school, was more humane and handed his name down in grateful remembrance by adopting the "toe the crack and stoop over" penalty.

Nathan P. Hinman was born in the village and entered the law office of William H. Engle, and after that of Sanford & Danforth. Upon being admitted to the bar he formed a connection with Major Houck, at Schoharie village, which ceased upon the death of that gentleman. He remained alone until his brother was admitted, when a co-partnership was formed and continued to the year 1872, when Nathan withdrew and removed to Albany City, where he is now located. Mr. Hinman beside being well read in law and possessing a keen perception, is without doubt the most natural orator that has graced the Schoharie County bar. His language is plain, free from inflated expression, and comes with such unusual ease and fluency as to win interest, and with such fervency as to excite, which, coupled with sagacious reasoning through a pleasing voice, makes him a force before a jury or audience that brother professionals find hard to overcome.

BUILDING OF THE MIDDLEBURGH BRIDGE.

Upon the building of the bridge in 1813, the village that was in two parts began to connect by the erection of a portion of the present Atchinson House and others, whose ancient appearance bespeak the date of their erection. Stores and inns occupied the open space, and as each year rolled around we find additions were made until the ancient High Dutch and more youthful Low Dutch villages were united. By an act of the Legislature in 1813, William C. Bouck, Thomas P. Danforth, Peter Swart, John Gebhard, Peter Swart, Jr., and Peter Shafer, Jr., were made a corporate body for the building of the bridge. During that season the work was commenced but the structure was not finished until the year 1819. Thomas P. Danforth became the owner and his heirs still hold the property, from which a paying dividend is yearly realized.

The turnpike known as the "Loonenbergh road," running through the village, and built by

legislative act of 1802, was built by issuing stock certificates, of which Mr. Danforth purchased the controlling influence. For long years the turnpike was called "Paine Danforth's road," and over its bed a vast amount of business has been done. The old bridge, and other structures that span the stream, are monuments of honest workmanship. Sixty-eight years of constant use have passed away—many rushing floods passed through its arches, with the power and strength equalled only by the hand of the Omnipotent that ruled them, and yet, we find the old bridge still firm as a rock.

Danforth.—About the year 1793, Jonathan Danforth, from Connecticut, settled here after a short sojourn in the city of Albany. Upon the formation of the County in 1795, he was appointed one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas. He had two sons, George and Thomas Paine. The former studied law and after a successful practice, died in Savannah, Ga. The late General George E. Danforth and ex-Judge Peter S., were sons. Thomas P. Danforth was appointed Assistant Judge of Common Pleas in 1823, and was father of the Dr. Volney Danforth and John J., who removed to Amsterdam and died without heirs, in the year 1830.

Engle.—Martinus Engle settled upon the Bouck Brothers' present farm soon after the Revolution, and was succeeded by Anthony Engle, of Berne, Albany county, who was the progenitor of the present Engle family of the town with the exception of William H. Engle, who is a nephew of Anthony.

Atchinson House.—Immediately after business began to be brisk upon the road, Daniel Dodge built an inn which is a portion of the Atchinson House. Mr. Dodge dying, the property was occupied by Cyrus Smith, who was afterwards elected Sheriff of the County (1840) and removed in 1842, when it was run by Mrs. Dodge and her son, (the late Daniel D. Dodge,) upon the son becoming capable of assisting in the management. They were followed by John Foland, James McDonald, Judge N. T. Rossetter, John Shafer, — Lowe, S. S. Mitchel, and the present proprietor, E. D. Atchinson, who took possession in the spring of 1863.

Freemire House.—The present hotel familiarly called the Freemire House, was built by Peter Farran, who was for some years a merchant, after the year 1830. William M. Holton followed and vacated the premises upon his election as County Clerk. — Demarrah succeeded, who gave place to Nicholas Snyder. E. D. Atchinson became the proprietor and vacated for the present host, A. J. Freemire, in 1863.

These two hotels are spacious and have become summer resorts for people living in the city. The custom of depending entirely upon the proceeds of the bar for support, and allowing a motley squad of intemperate loungers the freedom of the premises, as of early days, has been abandoned, and quiet, home-like hospitality adopted.

Merchants.—As we have already stated, Thomas and Cornelius Eckerson were without doubt the first resident merchants of the town, and the business was continued by some portion of the family up to the year 1800. Many small dealers from that time to the present have located here and passed on in a short time to other fields, whom we will not mention. The leading substantial tradesmen, we are informed, from time to time, have been:—

Peter Farran.

Freeman Stanton.

Daniel D. Dodge.

Peyton N. Ferrell.

John P. Bellinger.

Jacob Becker, who was followed by his sons, David and Hamilton.

James Dexter, flour, feed, hay, straw, etc.

The business men at the present time are as follows:—

Dodge & France, (George W. Dodge and Austin France,) general merchants, successors to D. D. Dodge.

J. Neville & Co., (J. Neville and Jacob L. Engle,) general merchants, successors to David Becker & Neville.

William E. Bassler, general merchant.

G. N. Frisbee, general merchant.

M. Geurnsey, general merchant.

A. Wortheim, clothier.

L. S. Rivenburgh, clothier.

Jehial Brazee, grocer.

William Dunn, merchant tailor.

Hamilton Becker, grocer.

Joseph Becker, grocer.

F. D. Schermerhorn, grocer.

John H. Cornell, grocer.

J. B. Badgley, druggist.

John T. Dunn, druggist.

S. Hutchings, hardware.

Frank Durham, hardware.

George Pechtle, jeweler.

H. J. Stevenson, jeweler.

J. Souer, furniture.

Frank Straub, barber.

George E. Borst, harness dealer.

James Becker, harness dealer.

Barney & Dennison, carriage manufacturers, successors to Barney & McGraw.

J. M. Reney, carriage manufacturer.

A. M. Smith, carriage manufacturer.

Tompkins Bros., foundrymen.

Hadley Snyder, dentist.

M. Borst, dentist.

J. C. Blodgett, tanner.

— Williams, tanner.

George Rockerfellow, planing mill.

S. Requea, general agent and manager, Middleburgh Blue Stone Company.

The Middleburgh Paper Mill was built by Dr. S. B. Wells and Renelo D. Chase, in 1853, and has been a successful affair, especially under the present proprietors, Franklin Krum and J. O. Williams, of Schoharie C. H.

Among the many worthy men engaged in business in this place, none was superior in ability and honor to Freeman Stanton, who died in 1871. The *Albany Argus* thus notices his life:—

"He was born on the 11th of March, 1796, in Montgomery county, and was the son of John Stanton, who left nine children. By the death of the subject of this sketch, the last of that large family of children has gone down to the grave. Mr. Stanton, in his boyhood, received for those early days what was called a good common school education, and became a clerk in the village store of George Smith, Esq., at Minaville. It was here that Mr. Stanton

made the acquaintance of General Jay Cady and the late Judge Paige. That acquaintance ripened into friendship, and for over half a century General Cady and Mr. Stanton have been as brothers. Soon after Mr. Stanton became of age, he removed to Middleburgh, and commenced mercantile business, in which he continued for over thirty years, when he retired to his farm about one mile out of the village of Middleburgh. He married soon after he commenced business, the daughter of Abram Lawyer. Mrs. Stanton died about a year since. In 1824 he was elected a member of the State Legislature, and immediately attracted the attention of the sagacious statesman at Albany, as a young man of sound judgment, and more than ordinary sagacity; and such men as Marcy, Flagg, Hoffman, Bouck and Crosswell, have sought his counsel and advice. The writer of this obituary remembers well a most interesting interview at which he was present, between Mr. Stanton and Governor Marcy, a short time before the National Democratic Convention, held at Baltimore, in 1852. When the late Governor Bouck received the appointment of Assistant Treasurer at New York City, from the President, he would not accept the position unless Mr. Stanton would agree to go with him and take the place of cashier, giving to Mr. Stanton the privilege of selecting his assistant. On this condition Mr. Stanton accepted the appointment, and most faithfully did he perform the work assigned to him. Mr. Stanton, by his amiable disposition, his kindness of heart, and his many liberal acts, made ardent admirers and devoted friends. He has gone to his grave, it is believed, without an enemy. The entire community feel that a good citizen and a kind neighbor has passed away and will fondly cherish his memory. To his large family of children he has left a rich legacy, for it can be truly said Freeman Stanton was an 'honest man, the noblest work of God.'

John P. Bellinger.—Contemporary with Stanton and Dodge, was John P. Bellinger, who removed from Cobleskill about the year 1838, and built the store-house now occupied by his successor, M. Geurnsey. Mr. Bellinger was in trade in Cobleskill for several years, and repre-

sented that town in the Board of Supervisors five terms. He was a very successful business man and highly respected as a man of integrity and vim, with broad views and energy sufficient to carry them out with success. He was a son of Peter Bellinger, and grandson of Marcus, the Revolutionary Supervisor. After a number of years of pleasant retirement, he died at a good old age, in August, 1878.

Daniel D. Dodge was a son of Daniel D. Dodge, a former landlord of the "Atchinson House," and a very enterprising man for the day in which he lived. The former early in life engaged in trade, and was for a long term of years one of the substantial business men of the town and County. Upon his death, which occurred in 1878, the *Schoharie Republican* said: "In the death of Daniel D. Dodge the village of Middleburgh loses one of its most enterprising citizens. His memory will be gratefully and lovingly cherished. He was for many years a successful merchant, and for sixteen years an acting magistrate of the town, discharging the duties of the office with rare ability. He represented his County in the Assembly of the State in 1850, and for some eight years was President of the Middleburgh & Schoharie Railroad."

The Tanning Interest.—Nearly opposite the Methodist church, at an early day, was a small tannery, perhaps the first one that made a regular business in the place, and which was purchased by the father of the late Zedac Pratt, of Greene county. It was here that the veteran tanner, dairyman and agriculturist was born and received his first instruction in those branches of enterprise in which he afterwards engaged, and which made him one of the prominent men of his day. He early removed to the old time named place "Schoharie Hill," and by his energy established one of the largest tanneries to be found in the State. The business he established drew around him a large force of laborers and tradesmen, causing a thrifty village to spring up, and in honor of its founder it was called Prattsville. Other small tanneries have from time to time succeeded the old one near the church, which it is useless to mention. We will only refer to the large establishments that "were, but are not," that

once were the the chief business basis of the place.

A Mr. Vroman built these works upon the Polly Hollow creek and did an extensive business up to the year 1857. The "Mill Valley Tannery" was built in 1849 by George E. Danforth and a large business was done for several years. This mill averaged about twenty thousand sides yearly for twenty years, averaging sixteen pounds per side of sole leather. From six to eight thousand cords of bark were yearly used. The works were burnt in 1865, but re-built in a few weeks. General Danforth purchased the Vroman mill in 1857, to extend his business, and removed the buildings to his own. In 1869, Loring Andrews purchased the property and upon his death in 1872, the heirs sold out, and after a portion of the buildings were removed, it came into the possession of the present owner Mr. Miller, who manufactured upper leather.

Since writing the foregoing, General Danforth died suddenly at his home, and in justice to him as a business man and genial townsman we will give a summary of his life. He was born in the village of Middleburgh and educated at Union college. He represented the town upon the board of supervisors in 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, and was Colonel of the Fortieth regiment of State militia for a long time and also General in command of the Eighteenth Brigade. In 1861, he was commissioned by the Governor, Edwin D. Morgan, to raise a regiment in Schoharie and Otsego counties, which he delivered to the government, as the 76th regiment. The year following, Horatio Seymour commissioned him to organize the 134th from Schoharie and Schenectady counties. He has held several prominent and flattering positions beside, in which he displayed marked dignity and ability. In 1852, he married a daughter of the late Gov. W. C. Bouck, who survives him. He was a son of George, and only brother of Peter S. Danforth. On the night of the 21st of April, 1881, he suddenly dropped away in the sixty-third year of his age.

Abraham Keyser.—Among the many men that were born in the town and became prominent in an official point of view, none are more

worthy of a notice than the late Abraham Keyser.

The Keyser family were very early settlers and possessed more than common ability as business men. Mr. Keyser died in Albany City in 1873, at the ripe old age of eighty-nine years. His prominence in connection with the State and county government demands a reference to his history. The *Albany Argus* upon his death published the following:—

"Mr. Keyser was born in Middleburgh, Schoharie county, April 20, 1784. His father being a farmer, the son was brought up to agricultural pursuits. In 1808 he removed to Schoharie village where his popularity and usefulness soon brought him several local offices. When William C. Bouck was sheriff, Mr. Keyser was appointed under sheriff, and at the expiration of Mr. Bouck's term, Mr. K. was appointed to succeed him in that office. In 1821 Mr. Keyser was elected to the assembly, and was re-elected in 1822. In 1825 he removed to Albany, and in 1826 was elected state treasurer. At that time the treasurer was annually elected by joint ballot of the legislature, and this honor was conferred upon Mr. Keyser for twelve consecutive years. During that period he was intimately associated in the affairs of government with Silas Wright, William L. Marcy, Azariah Flagg, William C. Bouck, and John A. Dix. Those were the palmy days of the old Democratic Albany regency, which for so many years conducted the politics of the State with great success. In 1838 he was appointed treasurer of the American Bible society, which position he held for two years.

Since that period, he has been in private life, devoting himself to his family. He was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, for over fifty years, and adorned his profession by an exemplary Christian life. He leaves a family of five sons and two daughters. In politics he was always a Democrat. He leaves behind him the record of an honest man and a true Christian."

Physicians.—The first regular practitioner of whom we have any account was David King, of Kingston. He located here before the Revolution and becoming old, induced James Van-

Gaasbeck, of the same city, a young man of promise, to locate here and continue his practice, which began about the year 1805 and ended in 1863. During his time several were contemporary with him, of whom we cannot be certain as to the dates of their services.

Dr. Cary, of Schenectady, followed Van Gaasbeck, about the year 1812, and continued till the year 1820.

Dr. Wheeler, came about the latter year, and was followed by Dr. Samuel B. Wells, in 1824, who formed a partnership with him. Wheeler soon removed to Canada.

In 1830, Linas Wells a brother of Samuel, came and studied in the office and commenced practice in 1836.

Dr. Samuel B. Wells was a student of Dr. Green of Gilboa, and came from Connecticut as a school teacher. He practiced until his death which occurred on the 15th of January, 1870, at the age of seventy-one. The Doctor identified himself with all the interests of the place and accumulated a fine property through his close application to his profession and other extensive business relations.

He was succeeded by his son, Henry D. Wells, who together with his brother Linas continues the practice, established fifty-seven years ago, and with marked success.

Volney Danforth commenced in 1830, and continued until his death in 1880.

John D. Wheeler another skillful physician of the Eclectic school was a student of Dr. Simons, of Charlottesville. He graduated in 1865 and immediately settled here, and beside attending to an extended practice, he represented the town upon the board of supervisors in 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877. During his residence in Fulton, he was also elected to the same position in 1863. He contracted the "slow but sure disease" and died in 1879, at the age of forty-seven. Beside Doctors Linas and Henry Wells, we find at the present time—

James Lawyer,

John Rossman, Jr.,

C. S. Best,

J. W. Ferris.

Each according to their favorite theory, trying to overcome the diseases to which "flesh is heir," and gain the laurels that skill and industry mete to the deserving.

Past Legal Fraternity.—The first legal gentleman that settled here was John Gebhard, of Schoharie, soon after finishing his studies in the office of his brother, Jacob Gebhard. George Danforth, son of Judge Jonathan Danforth, studied in his office and followed his profession here until ill health compelled a change of climate, which he sought at Savannah, Ga., where he died in 1831.

David F. Sacia also studied in the same office, and was appointed District Attorney for the County in 1821, which office he held for one year. He removed to Canajoharie, Montgomery county.

John O'Brien came and settled here about the year 1818, and removed in 1830 to Durham, Greene county.

Robert McClellan settled here about the year 1828, and was one of the leading members of the bar. He was District Attorney in 1836, and Representative in Congress in this, then the Twenty-fifth District, in 1837 and 1839, and upon his removal to the city of Hudson in 1840 he was elected to the same position from 1841 to 1843.

Contemporary with him was Benoni Spafford, who followed him in the office of District Attorney in 1837. While upon a tour for his health, which was declining, he died at Toledo in 1838.

John C. Smith and Mitchell Sanford came about the year 1839, and the latter was followed by and became connected with his brother, Lyman, in the same year.

Mitchell Sanford was one of those quick, discerning professionals that easily adapt themselves to the position in which they are placed, and when aroused by sarcasm, hurl with ease and grace, the most piercing cuts upon their antagonists. While with his brother, Lyman—marked care and decorum in all cases won the honor and respect of every court and bar. As we were engaged in the compilation of the "Bar of Schoharie County" we were apprised of the death

of the latter, which led us with deep regret to cast a notice of him with those *that were*, instead of with those that *are*, and append the following obituary, written by the Judge's partner, William E. Thorne, and published in the *Albany Argus* of March 24, 1881:—

"Judge Lyman Sanford died at his late residence, at Middleburgh, Schoharie County, on the 14th inst., at the age of sixty-nine years and four months.

"During his life he held many important official positions and offices of trust, and was widely known throughout the State.

"The announcement of his death will be received with universal and profound sorrow wherever he was known.

"Hon. Lyman Sanford was born at Greenville, Greene county, N. Y., on the 13th day of November, 1811, received his early education and was prepared for college at Greenville Academy, in his native village. He entered Union College in 1827 and graduated from that institution in 1831.

"He taught school for one year and then commenced the study of law with his brother-in-law, Hon. Erastus Barnes, at the city of New York, and completed the required course with Hon. Robert McClellan, at Middleburgh, Schoharie County. He was admitted to the bar in 1835, and soon after formed a partnership with his brother, Hon. Mitchell Sanford, and commenced the practice of law at New York City and continued with his brother for about two years, when Hon. Mitchell Sanford removed from the city, and the Judge continued the practice of his profession there alone, until the spring of 1839.

"In 1837 he married Ann E. Bouck, daughter of the late Governor William C. Bouck. In the spring of 1839, he removed to Middleburgh and located his residence, where he remained during the rest of his life.

"In January, 1840, he formed a law partnership with Hon. Peter S. Danforth, ex-Justice of the Supreme Court, which was continued until January, 1856. During the year 1843 he held the office of Adjutant-General of this State. He was elected County Judge of Schoharie County

in the fall of 1855, and held that office from the 1st of January, 1856, to January 1, 1864. He continued the practice of his profession until January 1, 1866, when he formed a law partnership with ex-District Attorney William E. Thorne, which continued until his death.

"In 1845 he succeeded his father-in-law, Governor William C. Bouck, as 'financial agent, of 'the Hartwick Seminary,' located at Hartwick, Otsego county, N. Y., and always thereafter took a deep interest in the management and welfare of that institution, and conducted its financial business with such marked ability and zeal that he was continued in that office, from the time of his appointment in 1845, until, on account of failing health, he resigned the position in 1880; he was also elected trustee in 1859, which office he still held at the time of his death; in 1869 he was elected treasurer of the Board of Trustees and continued to hold that office until 1880; he was elected president of the Board of Trustees in 1874, and held that office also until 1880, when his failing health compelled him to resign the office of president, treasurer and financial agent of the corporation, and it is but justice to say that the present prosperous condition of the Hartwick Seminary is largely due to the financial ability, zeal and integrity of Lyman Sanford.

"He was one of the originators of 'the Middleburgh and Schoharie Railroad,' and was a director of that corporation from the time of its organization until the time of his death; he was also the first treasurer and afterward the vice-president of that corporation.

"He was one of the directors and the treasurer of 'the Middleburgh and Schoharie Plank Road, from the time of its organization until it was abandoned.

"He aided materially and contributed liberally in building up and maintaining every enterprise worthy of having or maintaining in the community in which he lived.

"His bereaved family consists of his widow, his son, Charles L. Sanford, his daughter, Ann E. Martin, wife of Rev. Adam Martin, Professor of the German language and Literature, in the Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg, Pa., and his youngest daughter, Mary Sanford.

"His home was a sacred spot, filled with refinement, tenderness, delightful associations and old-fashioned hospitality.

"As a Judge, he was upright and just; as a lawyer, thorough and efficient; as a neighbor, social and obliging; and in both private and public life a man of spotless integrity."

A number of students read law in the several offices of the place from time to time, that located in other sections, without forming a practice here, whom we would be pleased to notice but space forbids.

Of those now in practice, a sketch of each may be found in Chapter VI, under the head of "County Bar."

The First National Bank of Middleburgh was organized on the first day of August, 1880, with a capital of \$50,000, under the following as Board of Directors:—

Peter H. Mitchell, President.
David Becker.
G. N. Frisbee.
Jacob Neville.
George Dodge.
Duryea Beekman.
D. C. Dow.

The banking rooms are in the Sanford block and prove a great convenience for the business men of the village and vicinity.

The following are the present officers:—

Duryea Beekman, President.
G. N. Frisbee, Vice-President.
W. E. Mitchell, Cashier.

The following are the present Directors:—

Peter H. Mitchell.
David Becker.
Nathaniel Manning.
George W. Dodge.
G. N. Frisbee.
Jacob Neville.
Duryea Beekman.
George L. Danforth.

Middleburgh Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.—This lodge was organized in 1867, it being preceded by an order that faded from exist-

ence during the exciting anti-masonic days. In the beginning of the century an "Ames Mark" lodge was organized here by Captain Thomas Machin.

The present lodge is No. 663, and consists of one hundred and twenty-five members.

The following are the present officers:—

William E. Thorne, W. M.
Montraville Geurnsey, S. W.
John Rossman, J. W.
George S. Lynes, S. D.
William G. Shafer, J. D.
P. Richtmyer, Tiler.
Rev. J. S. Harkey, Chaplain.
George W. Dodge, Treasurer.
John T. Dunn, James Becker, M. of C.
William Mitchell, Marshal.
A. G. Rosekrans, Organist.
Duryea Beekman, Montraville Geurnsey,
William H. Albro, Trustees.
Hadley Snyder, Harmon A. Vroman, Wil-
liam McGraw, Finance Committee.

Middleburgh Lodge of I. O. G. Templars.—

This society was organized October 18, 1867, and is one of the strongest of the County. The charter members were:—

Charles A. White.
James Lawyer.
H. D. Wells.
W. J. Lounsbury.
G. S. Lynas.
G. W. Bishop.
Rev. J. S. Hart.
A. Gardner.
George Slater.
C. Kline.
J. W. Best.
Elliot Danforth.
J. H. Cornell.
C. A. Hinman.
H. Wilsey.
Rev. D. Swope.
Joseph Borst.
H. A. Blodgett.
C. W. Devol.
Aurelia S. Blodgett.
Sarah Cornell.
Helen E. Watson.



1850

Lyman Sanford

MEMORIAL

OF

HON. LYMAN SANFORD.

Upon the opening of the March term of the County Court and Sessions of 1881, the legal fraternity assembled and took appropriate action in expressing their honor and appreciation of the subject of this memorial, and tender condolence in the death of their legal brother and associate. His Honor, Judge Charles Holmes, presided, and was thus addressed by Hon. Peter S. Danforth:—

“It is not, your Honor, to contribute to a mere ceremony, or to conform to any custom, upon such an occasion, that I supplement these resolutions with a few remarks. My feelings are far too deep for such lip service demonstration.

“It was my fortune to have enjoyed an intimate acquaintance with the deceased for almost the half of a century. He was my tutor in the years of 1832 and 1833, preparing me for college in the classics and mathematics. In the fall of the latter year we separated, he soon after going to New York and I to Union Col-

lege. I saw him then frequently at New York, where he had established himself in a large and lucrative practice. In 1837 I received a letter from him kindly inviting me to attend his wedding, and how well I remember that bright, beautiful day at the old family mansion of Governor Bouck, where he was united in marriage to the accomplished daughter of the Governor. It was a joyous occasion. How well he has filled the position of husband and father. His home has been a model home. He removed from New York to Middleburgh in 1839. On the first of January, 1840, I having just been admitted as co-partner, we commenced the practice of law. How changed since that time! As I stand here to-night and bring up to my mind those days, no wonder, your Honor, and I know I will be pardoned, if my lip quivers and my eyes are filled with tears. I stand here almost alone, as my hand rests on the broad shoulder of my brother, Brewster, who came to the practice in July, 1840. Of all those who were engaged in the practice of the law

HON. LYMAN SANFORD.

prior to that time, all, all are gone save William H. Davis, Hamilton and Goodyear, Houck and Mann, Holladay and Gebhard, at Schoharie, Spafford and McClellan, at Middleburgh, Thomas and Demosthenes Lawyer, Thomas Smith and Jedediah Miller, of Cobleskill, William Beekman, of Sharon, and John C. Wright, of Esperance. They were men who could have been an honor to any county of the State. The then four Judges of the old Common Pleas have entered into rest. Sheriff, clerk, and crier, are no more, aye, the courthouse even has crumbled into ashes, fired by the torch of an incendiary prisoner.

"The venerable form of John P. Cushman, the then Circuit Judge and Vice-Chancellor of this district, long ago has passed away. Other Judges have come to us: Harris, Wright, Watson, Gould, Hogaboom and Peckham, and they are gone, never to return! Other lawyers have since come to this bar and have gone, and we shall see them no more—Frost, Clark, Smith, Young, Fox, Salisbury, Strain, Mackey, Underwood, and now Sanford. The lesson of the hour is one full of instruction and admonition. Judge Sanford, immediately upon the commencement of his professional career, took a prominent position as a good lawyer and safe counselor.

* * * * *

I often had occasion to admire the fidelity he manifested in protecting the estate of the widow and orphan. As a citizen he was exemplary, and no stigma or reproach can be remembered against him; as a public man he was always adequate to his position. * * * * "

Ralph Brewster, Esq., in a few well chosen words, gave expression to his worth as a man and professional, and was followed by Hon. S. L. Mayham, who in the course of his remarks said:—

"No man ever held in higher esteem the honorable relations that the true lawyer bears to the community in which he lives, or the sacred and confidential duty he owed to his client, and no man ever did more to elevate the standard and preserve unsullied the honor of the legal profession in his sphere, than he. It was the profession of his choice, and he made it the business of his life to impress it with the dignity and respect which it deserves; and relieve it from all unjust criticisms. * * * *

"Few men possessed colloquial powers or gifts equal to the deceased, to which were added a high order of culture and scholarly attainments; a noble and commanding presence, with a voice rich and melodious; thus combining in him at once all the talent elements of an orator; and had he overcome in early life his native modesty, and brought all of those reserved forces into requisition, he would have been in forensic eloquence and power more than the equal of his brother, Mitchell, by whose burning words the people, juries, courts and senates, were moved and molded."

* * * * *

Hon. William H. Engle paid an eloquent tribute to the character of the deceased as a lawyer and jurist and closed as follows upon his affability as a gentleman and neighbor:—

"On his countenance rested always the genial smile and in his utterance the warm greeting that revealed the heart of the man. Decline could not destroy it, and nothing but the grasp of death could extinguish the external evidences of a kindly, noble and loving nature.

"To his neighbors therefore the recollections we all delight to cherish, come down to a recent date. But the bar need nothing to remind them of the pleasure his presence gave. It will be fresh and green in our memories as long as 'life and thought and being lasts.'"

Hon. William C. Lamont in full, earnest and feeling remarks, paid a high compliment to the virtues and ability of Judge Sanford and attested that:—

"Amid all this, the highest praise that can be awarded to man, rightfully was his. In all places requiring ability of a high order, integrity, the best and proudest thing that can be said, he did his duty. *It was well done.*"

Hon. Hobert Krum followed and in referring to the Judge's legal status said:—

"He was not a great lawyer, but he was a good one; and he was a noble county judge. As a lawyer he scarcely ever entered the arena of the bar, or mingled with the fights and strifes of the trial of a cause.

"His modesty and diffidence made him shrink from such an encounter, and therefore he never took such prominence in the profession as his abilities justly entitled him, and although he was known as a safe counselor, as a good pleader, and as a fine office lawyer, yet his legal ability

was never fully made manifest until after he was promoted to the bench.

"In that position he exhibited the well read lawyer, one well grounded in legal principles who could carefully discriminate cases, and when his opinion was rendered, it pronounced the law. He was an honest lawyer and an honest judge, because he was an honest man."

John B. Grant, Esq., George L. Danforth, Esq., Hon. William S. Clark, W. P. Thomas, Esq., Almerin Gallup, Esq., and Lyman Sanford Holmes, Esq., followed in feeling and eloquent language, expressive of the appreciation the younger members of the bar held towards the deceased who had welcomed each in turn to the profession, and encouraged them in their first efforts to gain their present prominent and successful positions. Hon. Henry Smith being indisposed, and not in attendance, paid by letter, a high tribute to the deceased, which was read by the clerk when his Honor in conclusion made the following remarks:—

"Gentlemen of the bar:—For myself I do not expect by the few suggestions I shall offer, to supplement to the grateful tribute of respect which you have already so well and deservedly rendered to the memory of our respected departed brother and friend. Yet to me it seems most fitting and appropriate that from this bench, once so highly adorned by Judge Sanford, an expression of approval and endorsement should come, commendatory of your action, which I most cheerfully give. I had known Judge Sanford quite intimately, since the fall of 1855, when he was elected to the

position I now hold ; I then being a candidate for another place, running on the same ticket with him, we were frequently brought together. From that period our relations were of the most friendly character, whether of a personal, professional, political, official or social nature. As members of this bar we had learned to love and respect him for his great virtues, and should strive to imitate them, as we cherish his memory.

"We have always received from him, in his own pleasant, graceful manner, a recognition and greeting so cordial that we felt easy in his presence, while sensibly impressed by his manner and bearing with the fact that he was in-

deed possessed of all good grace to adorn and grace a gentleman. But he has gone from us forever into that tribunal over which presides the Judge of all, who will not, cannot err.

"Full of years, enjoying the honor and respect of all who knew him, he has finished his work, and entered into eternal rest, and as well said of another, we can say of him :—

"He sank as sinks the morning star,
Which goes not down behind a darkened west
Nor hides obscured amid the tempests of the skies,
But melts away in the bright light of Heaven."

Of him, of his virtues, we can only exclaim
as we venerate his memory, Hail and Farewell!"

Mary H. Wharton.
 Mary Rosseter.
 Gertrude H. Moase.
 Louisa Wilsey.
 Nellie K. Rosseter.
 Eva V. Tuttle.

The present officers (1881) are:—

W. C. T., C. A. White.
 W. V. T., Gertrude H. Moase.
 W. S., Elliot Danforth.
 W. A. S., Mary A. Wharton.
 W. F. S., James Lawyer.
 W. T., H. D. Wells.
 W. C., Rev. J. S. Hart.
 P. W. C., Rev. D. Swope.
 W. M., H. A. Blodgett.
 D. W. M., Nellie K. Rosseter.
 W. J. G., Aurelia S. Blodgett.
 W. O. G., G. S. Lynas.
 R. H. S., Ellen E. Wilsey.
 L. H. S., Ellen E. Watson.

G. A. R. Post Stanton.—This Post was organized September 2, 1878, and named in honor of Jay C. Stanton, of Co. H, 76th Reg. N. Y. S. Volunteers, who was mortally wounded at the battle of Bull Run, August 29, 1862. The following are the charter officers and present members of the organization:—

H. A. Blodgett, Commander.
 Alonzo Parslow, S. V. C.
 William C. Brazee, J. V. C.
 Samuel Dennison, Adjutant.
 S. L. Rifenburgh, Q. M.
 Walter Wheeler, Sergeant.
 Rev. J. S. Harkey, Chaplain.
 J. K. Alberson, O. D.
 George W. Bishop, S. M.
 Edward H. Becker, Q. S.
 Charles H. Bartholomew.
 Peter G. Brazee.
 William J. Blodgett.
 William H. H. Boorn.
 John H. Babcock.
 George W. Babcock.
 Edward Dennison,
 William Doty.
 Orrin Duncan.
 Reuben Cane.

Malachi Coons.
 Henry Eggleston.
 George D. Eggleston.
 Albert Efner.
 Linard Heal.
 Leopold Huysong.
 Lewis B. Hans.
 John Holmes.
 David Jackson.
 David Layton.
 George McBain.
 William M. Myers.
 Albert Nasholts.
 Leonard Pratt.
 Jacob Parlianan.
 John Rorick.
 Melvin Richmond.
 Hiram Wright.
 A. M. Wilday.
 Henry D. Wood.
 Martin Wilsey.
 John D. Rodgers.
 John S. Smith.
 John Schram.
 Edmond Shaver.
 Calvin Traver.
 William H. Vroman.
 Reuben Wiley.
 Charles H. Wright.
 Jacob Williams.
 Levans H. Wilsey.
 John Whitbeck.
 David Weyman.

Of the part taken by the town in the late Rebellion we copy from a speech delivered by William E. Thorne upon Decoration day, 1880, at Middleburgh:—

“The town of Middleburgh alone furnished two hundred and eighty-nine volunteers out of a voting population of but seven hundred and forty. Twenty-nine of those volunteers who left their homes, bid adieu to affectionate and loving friends, endured the deprivations and hardships of a soldier's fare, and braved death for their country's cause, lost their lives in the service and are still sleeping upon southern soil where their comrades have laid them. But their memories are still fragrant and the recollection of their heroic deeds is still tenderly cherished here.”

As in other towns, an accurate record of the amount of money raised by the town to procure soldiers to fill out the quota from time to time was not kept.

Middleburgh Cornet Band.—This band was organized on the 18th of December, 1876, and consisted of fifteen pieces. Professor Salfred gave the first instructions and by close application to study and practice, the corps have become apt and skilled musicians.

The charter officers were:—

President, J. E. Young.
Vice-President, G. B. Hyde.
Secretary, P. B. Couchman.
Treasurer, W. G. Shafer.
Trustees, G. W. Coewell, G. W. Neville, B. W. Chase.

INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE.

During the winter of 1880 and 1881, several of the prominent citizens of the place, became interested in the incorporation of the village, chief among whom was F. X. Straub. A survey, map and verbal description of the boundaries were made, and in due course of time the following notice appeared, which we here copy, as it gives the boundaries as adopted by a majority of the citizens:—

"Between the hours of Ten A. M., and Three P. M., on the 16th day of April, 1881, at the Hotel kept by E. D. Atchinson, within the territory hereinafter described, an election will be held to determine whether or not the proposed territory described and indicated by the survey, map and verbal description of boundaries left for examination at the place of business of F. X. Straub, in the village and town of Middleburgh, Schoharie county, N. Y., shall be incorporated as a village. The proposed name of such village is "The Village of Middleburgh," and the verbal description of its boundaries is: "Beginning at a locust tree standing on the East bank of the Schoharie Creek, and on the North line of a piece of land owned by W. H. Engle, lying at the lower end of the village, and running from thence as the needle pointed February 18th, 1881; North

eighty-four degrees East following the line between David Zeh and Hezekiah L. Manning, 62 chains and 64 links, to a Cedar tree on the said line. Thence South one degree East 68 chains and 50 links to an apple tree on the side-hill, above Cliff Cottage—thence South 4 degrees East 53 chains and 50 links to a Pine tree in the Cemetery, thence South 77 degrees West 11 chains to a large Pine tree on the East line of the farm occupied by Jonas Bagley—thence North 60 degrees West 82 chains to an Elm tree on the East bank of the Schoharie Creek—thence North 29 degrees East 38 chains and 30 links, to the centre of the highway—fifteen feet west of the west end of the Middleburgh Bridge—thence North 4 degrees West 45 chains and 40 links to place of beginning, containing seven hundred acres of land.' The amount proposed to be expended the first year of the incorporation, for ordinary expenditures as defined in an act entitled 'An act for the incorporation of villages,' passed April 20th, 1870, and its amendments is \$100."

Signed,

George Dodge.
G. N. Frisbie.
J. E. Young.
H. D. Wells.
Harrison Hallenbeck.
Wm. Dunn.
M. Geurnsey.
J. L. Engle.
David Bassler.
W. H. Engle.
John H. Mallery.
W. E. Thorne.
Hadley Snyder.
A. J. Freemyer.
G. S. Lynes.
John H. Cornell.
Frank X. Straub.
J. B. Badgley.
G. L. Danforth.
Joseph Becker.
W. E. Bassler.
J. Neville.
D. Beekman.
Marvin Scutt.
Dr. James Lawyer.

The total number of votes cast at the election was two hundred and fifty-eight, of which one hundred and eighty were cast for, and seventy-eight against an incorporation.

OFFICIALS.

Middleburgh has had a long list of officials, and many of them the most prominent, as will be seen by Chapter VI. The early records of the town are not accessible, much to our regret, as we desire the names of the supervisors, at least. Those that we are privileged to examine, date back only to 1844, leaving forty-seven years without a record. The following, with the date of service, are the names of the supervisors :—

1844—David B. Danforth.
 1845—Matnew Franklin.
 1846—do
 1847—Uriah Rider.
 1848—Henry Hauver.
 1849—Stephen Vosburgh.
 1850—George Bouck.
 1851—do
 1852—George W. Tibbits.
 1853—David Becker.
 1854—Edward Pinder.
 1855—George E. Danforth.
 1856—do
 1857—do
 1858—do
 1859—do
 1860—do
 1861—Wm. Shafer.
 1862—do
 1863—Peter Z. Swart.
 1864—Nicholas Beekman.
 1865—Volney Danforth.
 1866—Hamilton Becker.
 1867—Alex. Bouck.
 1868—do
 1869—Bartholomew Becker.
 1870—Peter Z. Swart.
 1871—do
 1872—Nathaniel Manning.
 1873—John D. Wheeler.
 1874—do
 1875—do
 1876—do

1877—John D. Wheeler.

1878—Hadley Snyder,

1879—do

1880—do

1881—do

1882—do

HUNTER'S LAND.

At the time the lands around Schoharie, including Middleburgh, were surveyed in 1710, they were named in honor of Governor Hunter, by whose orders they were surveyed and explored. But those immediately along the valley, as by custom among the Indians, retained their original name Schorie, or Schoharry, and the country lying east upon higher grounds, for a long distance back, was called Huntersfield. Johannes Lawyer, the second, purchased a large tract in 1768, which is now included in that part of the town called Hunter's Land. The settlement was not made at an early date, and with very few exceptions, until after the Revolution. The Posson family came before that event. The grandfather of Peter W. Posson came from Germany and settled about the year 1760. We will here state that the father of Mrs. Posson, Philip Bartholomew, came over with LaFayette at sixteen years of age and held a captain's commission under him during the war, and when the general returned, Captain Bartholomew, as did hundreds of his soldiers, resigned his commission and became a citizen of the united colonies, and after a few years wandered to this part of the country. We find many from near counties located here, among whom was Jesse H. Alger, from Saratoga county, who came in 1810. After a quiet and successful life, he died in 1867. Daniel Barkman also came about the year 1815, from Rensselaer county, and was elected justice of the peace in 1840. Mr. Barkman held the office up to the year 1876, when age demanded of him retirement, and Merritt McComber, succeeded him. It is a very uncommon occurrence in these days of political jealousies, for one to hold an office that term of years, and it bespeaks confidence, integrity and acknowledged ability of the people in and of the official.

Adam Snyder & Sons we find are engaged in

trade and blacksmithing, they being immigrants from Lorraine in France, but of German origin. They settled here in 1840, and have identified themselves with the business of the place.

Town boundary by act of 1713, "And at that part of said county of Schohary beginning at the place where the Cobleskill road crosses the Punch-kill, thence with a straight line to the north-west corner of a patent grant to Michael Byrne and others, thence with a straight line to the west corner of the house now or late of Jacob Best near the head of the north branch of the West-kill, thence continuing the same line to a tract of land called Blenheim, thence easterly along the northerly bounds of Blenheim, until it strikes Schoharie creek, thence easterly with a straight line to the north east corner of the dwelling house now or late of Moses White, thence with the same line continued to the bounds of the county, thence northerly along the same to the south east corner of the town of Schoharie, thence along the southerly bounds thereof to the place of beginning, shall be and continue a town by the name of Middleburgh."

CHAPTER XV.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF SHARON.

FORMATION OF NEW DORLACH. — SHARON — DORLACH GRANT — FIRST SETTLERS — LATER SETTLERS — PETER SOMMERS — MERENESS BROTHERS — WILLIAM BEEKMAN — EARLY AFFAIRS — BATTLE OF SHARON — COLONEL MARINUS WILLET — AMBUSH FORMED — INCIDENTS OF THE DAY — LEEM AND HOPPER FAMILIES — MARIA LEEM — CAPTURE OF MYNDERT AND OTHERS — WILLIAM KNEISKERN — REV. PETER N. SOMMERS — ST. JOHN'S CHURCH — REFORMED CHURCH — CONDITION OF SETTLERS — TURNPIKES — TAVERNS — BEEKMAN'S CORNERS — PETER A. HILTON — ROBERT ELDRIDGE — ELDRIDGE

FAMILY — DR. PALMER — SOUR KROUT MES-
SAGE — PETER PARADOX — ENGLE'S MILL —
LEESVILLE — DORMANT VILLAGES — LEESVILLE
LUTHERAN CHURCH — LEESVILLE BAPTIST
CHURCH — CEMETERY — ROCKVILLE — SHARON
SPRINGS — PUBLIC HOUSES — ANALYSIS OF WA-
TER — MERCHANTS — ROMAN CHURCH — SHARON
CENTRE — JOHN BEAKLEY — SHARON HILL
AND HOLLOW — E. S. WALES — ZACHARIAH
KEYES — HOTEL — MERCHANTS — KILLING OF
VAN SCHAIK — STAGE HOUSE — JOHANNES
LOUCKS — WILLIAM DAVENPORT — OTHER
LOUCKS' FAMILIES — LEMUEL CROSS — KLING
SETTLEMENT — JOHN ADAM KILTS — SLATE
HILL CEMETERY — BELLENGER FAMILY — VAN-
VALKENBURGH — TILLAPPAUGH — GILBERT'S
CORNERS — REFORMED CHURCH OF SHARON
— MASONIC LODGE — OFFICIALS — BOUNDARIES.

THE territory of this town was embraced in the county of Tryon, from March 12, 1772, to April 2, 1784, when old Tryon was changed to Montgomery, in honor of General Richard Montgomery, whose patriotic principles proved more agreeable to the victorious patriots than to the Colonial Governor. Upon the formation of Otsego county on the 16th of February, 1791, a portion of Carlisle, all of Seward and Sharon, formed the town of "New Dorlach," agreeable to the wishes of many of the first settlers here found that immigrated from Dorlach in Germany from 1750 to 1760, and located here in 1754 and 1760.

When Schoharie was formed, the town or the eastern part of it was annexed to it, under the name of Sharon, from a town in Connecticut, from which Calvin Rich and John Rice with their families came immediately after the Revolution.

While the bounds were defined in part at that time, yet a perfect formation of the town was not made until 1797. Dr. Tinas Pynneo represented the town as "New Dorlach" in the Board of Otsego Supervisors in 1795, and at Schoharie in 1796 and 1797. Owing at to the fact of the settlers coming from Dorla . a

large tract of land granted to Jacob B. Johannes, John Jost, and Michael Borst, William Bauch (Bouck), Johannes Braun (Brown), Michael Heltzinger (Hillsinger), Johannes Schaeffer, Hendrick Haines, Johannes and Jacob Lawyer, Christian Zeh, Mathias Bauman, Lambert Sternberg, Barent Keyser, Peter Nicholas Sommers, which lay wholly in the original town, was called the "Dorlach Grant." The Germans pronounced the name "Turlah," as they still do at the present time.

Johannes Lawyer and Jacob Borst purchased the interest of the remaining owners, after each selected a large farm, and at last the former became the sole owner. The grant has of late years been designated by surveyors as the "Borst Patent."

The first settlers of the present condensed town were :—

Peter and Nicholas Sommers, sons of
Peter N. Sommers,
Peter and Andrew Loucks,
Christian Myndert,
— Kling,
Peter McDougle,
Lambert Sternberg, Jr.,
The Hoppers (Harpers), and Leems
(Lambs) families.

During the Revolution all immigration ceased, but as soon as peace was proclaimed up to the year 1800 the greatest influx of settlers was made chiefly from the Cobleskill, Schoharie and Mohawk valleys. This seemed to be the meeting ground for those branching off from those settled portions. The Mereness, Fritche, (now Fritcher) Bellinger, Ball, Hyney, Falk, Van Valkenburgh and Vanderwerken families came from those sections, while Calvin Pike, Calvin Rich, Eldredges, Beekman, Adams, Hiller, John Rice and Tinas Pynneo, mostly Yankees of New England, located here and all became influential and successful business men. Peter, eldest son of Rev. P. N. Sommers, kept the first store, dealing chiefly in groceries and ashes, as was customary for all merchants in new settlements. Peter held a commission during the French war, under the Crown of England, and while he was neither called upon nor had occasion to act in

the capacity of a soldier, he had, nevertheless, sworn fidelity to the King. When hostilities commenced between the mother country and the colonies he thought he could not consistently, with his strict religious principles, act contrary to his oath by taking up arms against the government, and not wishing to engage against the patriot's cause, he removed to Canada in 1777, from whence he never returned. His brother, Nicholas, settled upon the land his father purchased, on a portion of which his son, David Sommers, now resides.

Abram and John Mereness removed here from the Mohawk in 1786, and settled upon the farm lately occupied by Squire Abram, son of Abram, the first settler. Squire Mereness passed away in February of 1881, at the advanced age of ninety-six. In 1806, he was elected collector of the town, and the year following Justice of the Peace, which office he held seventeen years and resigned to hold that of loan commissioner. Upon our visiting him nearly one year ago, we were surprised to find him in the possession of his mental faculties to such a degree as to give dates of transactions, the records of which were supposed to have been lost. Subsequent searching proved his accuracy. He was in his younger days an active politician, in union with Judge Beekman, John Ingold, Jun., John Rice and Calvin Rich, and was the arbitrator of local disputes for many years. When questioned in regard to early political affairs the "vim" of other days seemed to return and animate the feeble form to enter the arena again. A near neighbor to him was William Beekman.

William Beekman was honored with the appointment of First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas upon the formation of the County, and held the office until the year 1833, when John C. Wright, then of Esperance, succeeded him. Of Judge Beekman's early history we are indebted to his only living child, Cornelius Beekman, now of Albany, who in his old age is deprived of his sight. The Judge was born upon the ocean, was of German parentage, and was early accepted by Colonel Willett as an errand boy. He attended school but six months previous to his entering Willett's service. After

the close of the Revolution, about the year 1788, he came to this town, and began as a merchant in a small way, and soon acquired sufficient means to purchase the farm upon which he died. During his life here he continued trade in connection with agriculture, and proved successful in both. Upon the formation of the County we find men of fine legal ability here whom one would naturally think would be honored with the appointment of First Judge, but one of the last acts of Governor George Clinton was to cast the honor upon Mr. Beekman. What influence was brought to bear upon the council of appointment to concur in the choice, we cannot say, nor whether he was the only candidate. We only know that Beekman, a youthful pioneer, without education, received the honor and performed the duties with dignity and grace.

Beside his judicial appointment he was elected to the State Senate in 1799, 1800, 1801 and 1802, and held many minor positions in corporate bodies. He was small in stature, with a well proportioned frame, and a very round head which he carried erect, and with hair always closely cut. He became gray at an early day, and upon his death was somewhat bald. He married Joanna Low, (whose parents came from New Jersey,) by whom he had seven sons and three daughters. Those that grew to man and womanhood and married, were John, Nicholas, William, Cornelius, Dow and Duryea. Maria was the only daughter married. Her husband was Hoffman Ten Eyck.

The Judge built a spacious mansion west of Beekman's Corners in 1802-'04, which is still standing, having the appearance of a "baronial hall," in which he lived in princely style until his death, which occurred on the 26th of November, 1845, at the age of seventy-eight. His remains were deposited in the family vault, near the residence, and lying near are five of his first children, the eldest being born in the year 1789. Mrs. Beekman lies beside him, having died in December, 1835, at the age of seventy.

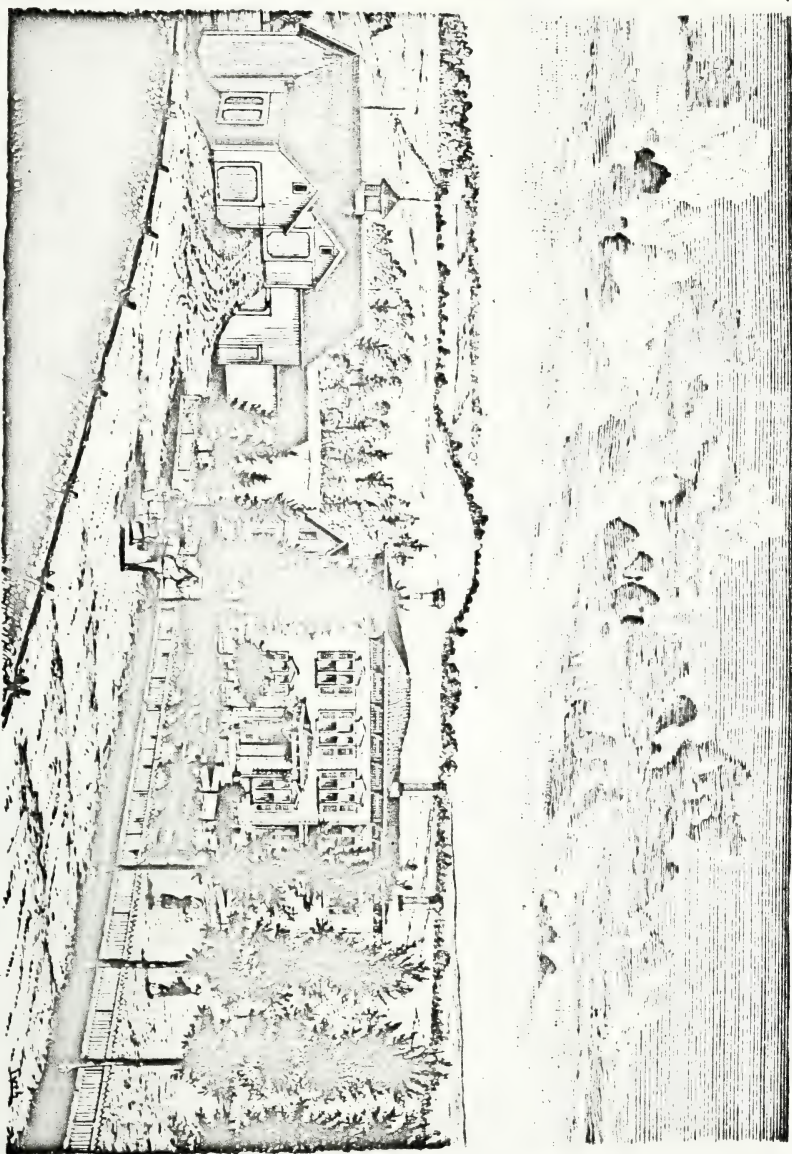
The mother of Mrs. Beekman also is buried near, and we find she was born in Elizabethtown, New Jersey, in March, 1732, and died in Sharon in October, 1821. Without doubt the Judge was the first man that kept a general as-

sortment of merchandise in the town, and for a number of years did a large business. His barns, sheds and barracks were at one time swept away by the hand of an incendiary, although at the same time but few men enjoyed the confidence and respect of his neighbors and the country at large as did the Judge.

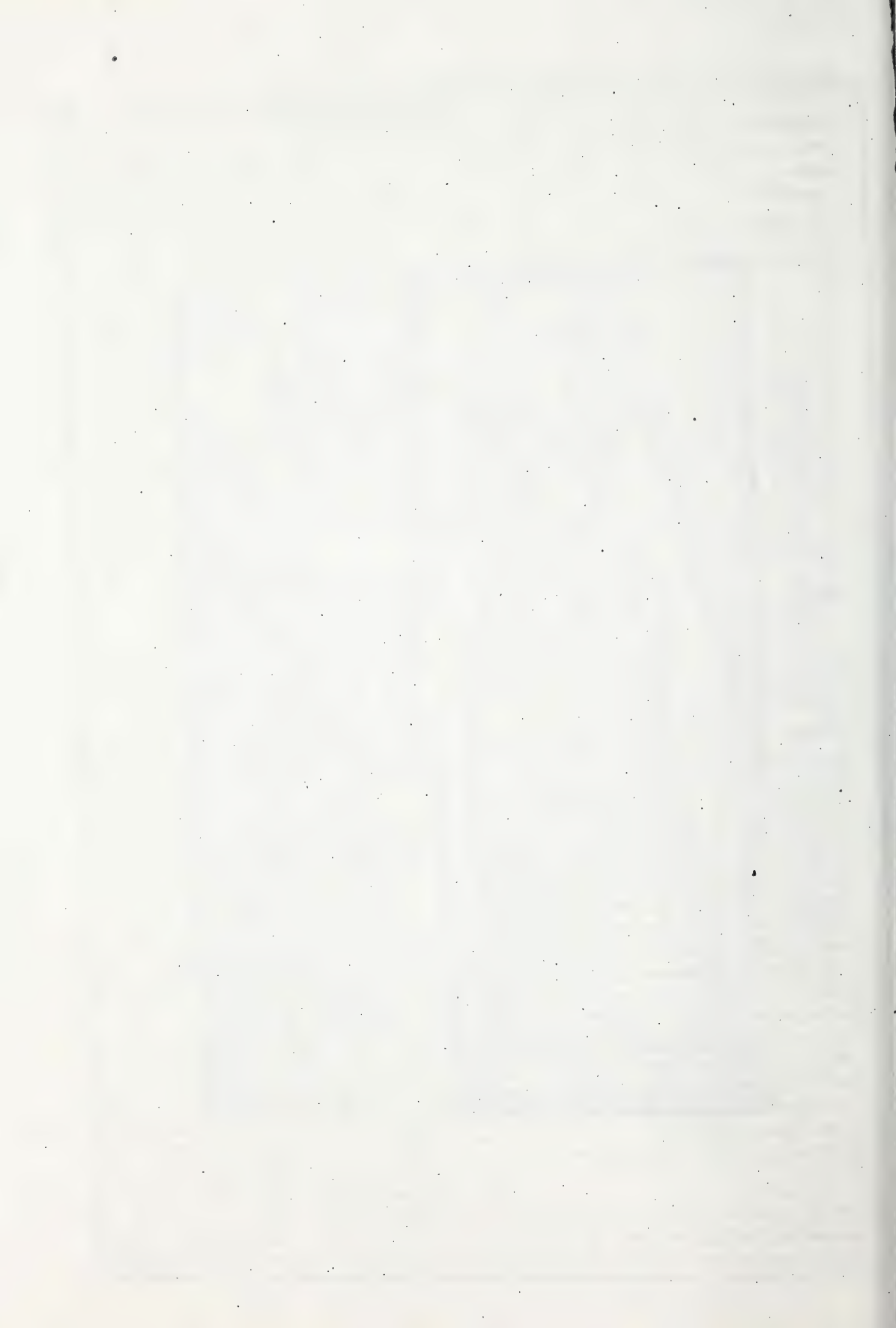
EARLY AFFAIRS.

Nothing unusual occurred until the Revolutionary war. The Indians, chiefly Mohawks, occasionally visited their German neighbors on their hunting and begging excursions, and a friendly feeling existed between them which the timid portion of the settlers dared not provoke, and during the struggle partially sided with the Crown and remained "passive." It is easy for us who are safely ensconced beneath the protecting arm of the government to think and speak lightly of those who lived in the border settlements and were thus timid. If the struggle had proved averse to the patriots, while we would perhaps commend them for their patriotism and bravery, we would have considered them to have been foolish to have undertaken such an enterprise while laboring under such great disadvantages. As the result was the most pleasing, we are apt to censure many—and perhaps noble characters—who made patriotic and useful citizens after. A number answered the call of the Crown in 1777 from old "Turlah" to unite with St. Leger at Fort Stanwix, and upon his retreat to Canada followed and did not return. A few came back and bathed their hands in their neighbors' blood. At the close of the war, the lands formerly occupied by such Tories were confiscated and principally purchased by the New England settlers. In this, as in other settlements, a few were accused of Toryism unjustly, and the stigma yet stands against their names. The farmers of this town were "well-to-do" at that time, and raised large crops of grain, especially those in the eastern part of the town, then called "Rhinebeck," and along the West Kill.

During Colonel Willett's command of the Mohawk his force was supplied by the granaries of the Tories of "Turlah." Yet many times the



RESIDENCE OF WESLEY H. KILTS, SHARON, N. Y.



foraging parties did not hesitate to visit those who were in sympathy with the patriots, provided they possessed the eatables the soldiers wanted.

Many that were thus visited, petitioned to the Legislature after the war closed to be paid for such things as were taken, and in a few cases were successful in receiving compensation. Others could not prove their "patriotism" and failed. A case, originating from grain and hay being taken from Conradt Brown in 1781, was in law for many years, that drew a great interest throughout this part of the County and culminated but a few years hence. Through reports of "Toryism" Mr. Brown was unable to obtain an order of compensation for a number of years, but finally proved his patriotism by producing proof of his furnishing a substitute that was in Willett's command, through Willett himself.

The case and the close of it was thus noticed by the *Canajoharie Radii*:—

"A very important and interesting case in the Supreme Court, Schoharie County, was also tried before Hon. Peter S. Danforth, Referee, at this place during the second week in August inst., growing out of a Revolutionary claim for the taking of the personal property of Conradt Brown, in the year 1781, by the United States troops, by order of Colonel Willett, for the supply of the army at Fort Plain on the Mohawk river.

"The State of New York passed an act in 1785, exonerating said Willett, and requiring him to account to the State for the property so taken, and to pay the value of the same, or account therefor to the Treasurer of New York, that it might be brought into account with the United States which was paid by the United States to the State of New York, in 1790, with interest, in order that the persons who were entitled to the same, might make application to our Legislature for the amount respectively due them, for the property so taken. Subsequently, Conradt Brown departed this life; leaving by his last will and testament, all his interest in this money, to his son, Marcus, who in his life-time, assigned and set over to Messrs. Brown & Machin, one-half of said demand,

providing they procured the passage of a law by our Legislature, to pay the same to Marcus Brown or his legal representatives. The passage of this law was procured by Messrs. Brown & Machin, as per agreement, directing the Treasurer to pay to said Marcus, \$1,545. After the passage of the law, said Marcus died, leaving Peter Brown, his sole executor, who insisted upon drawing the full amount of the demand, but finally consented that said Machin should draw one-quarter thereof, but refused to allow Severenus Brown to draw any portion thereof; insisting that the assignment was against public policy and void. Messrs. Brown & Machin had severed their claim, and Severenus Brown brought an action against said Peter, executor, to recover his share of the money, which was referred to Ex-Senator Danforth, of Middleburgh. Hon. J. H. Salisbury, of Sharon, and J. A. Bloomingdale, Esq., of Albany, appeared as counsel for Severenus, and Messrs. Dewey & Moak, of Cherry Valley, for Peter Brown, the executor.

"When the plaintiff rested his case, Mr. Dewey moved for a non-suit, on the grounds that the claim was not assignable, because it was a mere bounty from government, and a mere matter in expectancy; that the consideration of the assignment was an agreement to perform lobby services, and therefore void and against public policy, and cited a number of cases to sustain him. Mr. Salisbury followed in opposition, and exhibited a great deal of ingenuity in his argument, dealing now and then in sarcasm, and created some considerable laughter by his witticisms aimed at Mr. Dewey, whom he at the same time complimented for his ability and shrewdness. Mr. Bloomingdale also followed in opposition to the motion of Mr. Dewey, and in a very able, pointed and masterly manner discussed the principles of law involved in the case, and went on to show that there was a very wide distinction between the cases cited by Mr. Dewey and the one under discussion; and that the assignment was valid and should be upheld. His argument was unanswerable. The Referee here refused to non-suit the plaintiff, and the defendant proceeded with his defence. We understand that there are about eight thousand dollars depending indirectly upon the result of

this case. It was an important question and brought out the talent on both sides."

Battle of Sharon.—On the 10th of July, 1781, an engagement occurred between the forces of Colonel Willett of Fort Stanwix fame, and less than three hundred regulars and militia, and one Dockstader a Mohawk Tory, at the head of over four hundred Tories and Indians, near Sharon Centre, which was the only battle fought within the town, although hostile parties came very near meeting in conflict upon two other occasions. At this time Colonel Willett with Major Robert McKean was stationed at Fort Plain, and had sent a foraging party over to "Turlah" for supplies, and upon their return they discovered the tracks of a large force traveling in a southwesterly direction. To estimate their numbers, the party walked back and forth by the side of the enemy's trail and judging by the number of tracks thus made, a force of at least three hundred had of late passed along, and were principally Indians. The foragers sent two messengers to apprise Colonel Willett of the fact, and the remainder cautiously followed the trail and found the encampment west of the present buildings belonging to Frederick Hiller. Dockstader had that day devastated Currytown and taken several prisoners, a knowledge of which had reached Willett, before the foraging messengers had arrived, and he had sent a small force to the relief of that settlement, but too late to be of service. When he was made acquainted of the encampment, he at once, with that intrepidity that characterized his military life, started with a small force to give battle to the invaders. He bent his course to a small block-house at Friesbush, then in command of Captain Gross, where he increased his force, and having men in his ranks that were from the neighborhood, and had a perfect knowledge of the grounds, he was led to make a circuitous march to the west, and place his force, unperceived by the enemy, in a ravine a short distance to the south of the encampment, upon Engle's farm. His march from Fort Plain and the placing of his men was done during the night of the 9th. As day began to appear, he sent men out to make a feint upon the east of the encampment, and by broad daylight the whole force was

aroused and ready for pursuing the prowlers, but a small squad was led off in an opposite direction, which returned soon without meeting any enemy or having their suspicions aroused. Soon, one McAdemy, of "Turlah," and a Belinger, of the Mohawk, cautiously approached the encampment upon the south, and fired into their camp and retreated. They being ready to resume their march, gave chase to McAdemy and his comrades, and were led over the ground now occupied by the store and hotel—along the present road leading to the south, and down into the ravine, to the right, upon the sides of which Willett's men were placed, to give them an unexpected yet warm reception. As the scouts had run quite a distance and were very closely pursued, it was feared that as the enemy entered the gully they would kill them. Colonel Willett, who was stationed upon the left, in his excitement, raised up and swung his hat, exclaiming, "Give it to them, boys, I can catch all the bullets the damn Indians can send." At this, McKean and his men upon the right, gave them a broadside, and the battle commenced. The Indians seeing they were cut off from fighting from behind trees, pushed along down the small stream to the southwest, and as they emerged upon the flat, Willett's force and theirs became mixed and they fought

"Hand to hand, and eye to eye,"

as at Oriskany, nearly one quarter of an hour, when the Indians gave a whoop and made a precipitate retreat to the southeast. Willett's force followed nearly three miles, and returned to care for the wounded. Over seventy of the enemy were slain and five of the patriots, there being also a few wounded, among whom was the brave Major McKean. He was taken to Fort Plain and survived but a few days. The next day a party was sent to bury the slain, and among them were found Jacob Diefendorf, a lad taken prisoner at Currytown on the 9th, and whom the savages had scalped upon their retreat, also a small girl, who survived but a few hours after being discovered. Mr. Diefendorf lived to an advanced age, and became one of the wealthiest men of Montgomery county. While the battle of Sharon was of short duration and of less numbers than many others, yet

but few were more bloody and obstinate than this. It was a counterpart to the one of Oriskany, in which that valor was displayed which so nobly adorns the annals of American history.

Robert McKean was a native of Cherry Valley, and at the head of a company early entered the service as Captain. For bravery and vigilance, he was promoted to Major, and his early death was lamented by his comrades, especially by his superior, Colonel Willett. McKean was in several engagements, but in none displayed fear or inaction, but on the contrary, the greatest courage and wisdom. While holding a captain's commission in 1780, he joined Van Rensselaer with his company and a body of Oneida Indians to intercept Sir John Johnson in his devastation of the Mohawk valley. His remains, we are told, were buried near the fort at Fort Plain, and the little stronghold was named in honor of the brave officer, Fort McKean.

"Colonel Marinus Willett was born at Jamaica, Long Island, July 31, 1740. He was a farmer's son, and early entered the Provincial service, and was under Montgomery in his northern expedition as Captain, and at the opening of the campaign of 1777, was placed in command of Fort Constitution as Lieutenant-Colonel. During that year he was ordered to Fort Stanwix, and after the unsuccessful attack of Colonel St. Leger, he was left in command until the summer of 1778, when he joined Washington, and was engaged in the battle of Monmouth. He was in Sullivan's invasion of the Indian country in 1779, and actively engaged in the Mohawk valley in 1780, 1781 and 1782. In 1792 he was appointed by Washington to treat with the Creek Indians, and the same year appointed a Brigadier-General in the army intended to act against the Northwestern Indians. He declined, as he was opposed to the expedition. He was Mayor of New York City in 1807, and previous was Sheriff of that county. In 1824 he was chosen Presidential Elector, and was made president of the electoral college. He died in New York August 22, 1830, in the ninety-first year of his age."*

* Benson J. Lossing.

We clip the following from the New York *Journal of Commerce*:—

"The coffin of Colonel Willett, who recently died in this city, was made of pieces of wood collected by himself many years ago, from different Revolutionary grounds. The corpse, in compliance with a written request of the deceased, was habited in a complete suit of ancient citizen's apparel, including an old fashioned three-cornered hat, which had been preserved for that purpose? It is estimated that seven thousand persons passed through the house for the purpose of viewing the remains."

At that time one Leem (Lamb) lived where Augustus Parson now resides, and upon the opposite side of the road lived the Hopper family, upon the farm now owned by George P. Hiller. They were sons-in-law of Harwanger, who fled to Canada in 1777. Mrs. Harwanger was then living with Hopper and sympathized with the patriots, and while the battle was waging, she retired to the back of the house and prayed to the God of Battles for the patriots' success.

A few days previous to the battle, Leem (Lamb) while asleep, dreamed that an army was to invade the neighborhood, and it worked upon his mind to that extent that he was led to remove his family to Fort Plain the day before the battle. After the engagement, the remainder of the settlers quit their places for safety and did not return until the close of the war, except to gather their harvest.

In the fall of that year Mrs. Leem's (Lamb's) daughter, Anna Maria, a young and blooming girl of sixteen, walked over from Fort Plain to the farm to pull flax, but a short distance from the battle-ground, intending to return the same night, but not being able to finish her task, she made a bed of flax in one corner of the lot and remained over night. The next morning she arose with the sun and secured the remainder and walked to the fort by dinner time. How many of the girls of to-day would dare do the same, or think they could even walk that distance? But few, if any. Considering the natural timidity of the female sex, we think her a heroine, especially in lying through the cheerless night, so near the blood-

stained battle-field, where imagination would naturally see all the horrors of the strife rehearsed, and court the disagreeable nervousness of fear, to insanity! She afterwards became the wife of one of the patriotic Karkers, of New Rhinebeck, and the mother of a highly respected family.

On the 9th of July, 1881, a centennial celebration* was held upon the ground on which young Diefendorf was scalped, and was attended by several hundred citizens from the surrounding country. John Beakley, Esq., presided, and addresses were made by John Van Schaick, Esq., and Watson Lamont, Esq., of Cobleskill. A poem by Hon. John Bowdish, and historical address by W. E. Roscoe, were read, and interspersed by both vocal and instrumental music, which, taken together, made very imposing and appropriate ceremonies.

CAPTURE OF MYNDERT AND OTHERS.

The next hostile movement in the town was made where the little hamlet long known as Moak's Hollow now stands, and upon the farm owned and occupied by Joseph Sharpe. About the year 1755 or 1760, one Christian Myndert, now pronounced "Miner" settled upon Mr. Sharpe's farm. His house stood a little north of the foundry site upon the side hill, on the farm near where the present one stands. Several incursions were made during the season of 1781, by Colonel Willett's men to obtain supplies from the Tories for the garrison at Fort Plain, and squads of Indians were frequently sent to intercept them, and were secreted by the Tories to watch their opportunity to kill or take them prisoners, but being too cowardly to undertake such risks, they failed to be of service until about the middle of September, 1782. Myndert and family, knowing the Indians were frequently secreted in the neighborhood, became fearful of their safety, and in the fall of 1781, removed to Middleburgh Fort, and returned in the spring with several scouts, to do their spring's work. In September, as above stated, he made a bargain with six others to return to his farm, to harvest his crops, agreeing with the six to divide equally with them. Those that engaged

in the speculation were Jacob and Philip Karker, Lieutenant Jacob Borst, of Cobleskill, William Kneiskern and two others whose names our informant cannot recall.

Mrs. Myndert came over to cook for the party. They had worked but a day or two, when one afternoon it began to rain, and they sought the house for shelter, not perceiving a squad of Indians that had gained access to the barn, assisted by one of the neighboring Tories. In entering the house the party placed their guns in one corner of the kitchen and sat down in front of the fireplace to dry their clothing and while chatting, without any idea of insecurity, the door was thrown open and nine powerful Indians with guns and tomahawks, headed by an inveterate Tory, rushed in, between the party and their guns. The Karkers and Kneiskern enjoyed a knock down, but the muzzle of the Indians' guns being brought to their breasts, they agreed to submit as prisoners, and were soon on the road to Niagara, by the way of the Susquehanna river, with their hands bound behind them.

Mrs. Myndert was allowed to return to the middle fort, alone, with the compliments of the Tory commander, to Colonel Vroman. Upon marching through the southern part of the town they barely escaped a party of Willett's men, who were upon a foraging expedition, and had found shelter from the storm in the Tory Philip Crysler's house, but a short distance from the captors' and captives' path. The prisoners were severely treated, especially as they passed through Indian villages, when they were compelled to run the gauntlet for the amusement of the younger class of the "noble red man." Their vengeance seemed to be more especially upon Lieutenant Borst, as he had been a terror to the Indians and Tories. The prisoners secretly consulted with each other, except Myndert, upon the propriety of effecting an escape, but hardly dared to speak of it to him as he seemed to be a willing captive, but upon arriving at Niagara, they became better acquainted and had opportunities to talk with him upon their desired escape, and found he had wished to broach the subject many times, but was fearful of being unsuccessful. The whole party were retained after peace was proclaimed, but they

*See appendix.

made their escape by digging beneath the pickets that enclosed their prison.

William Kneiskern was taken to Rebel Island and there he secretly procured three brandy casks and lashed them together and set himself afloat upon them. He safely landed upon the American side several miles from the Island and returned to his home. He afterwards settled in Decatur, Otsego county, and was one of four brothers living in Carlisle, two of whom were loyal to the Crown and two true and faithful patriots. Lieutenant Borst had acted as scout through the war, previous to his captivity, and being exposed to all kinds of weather and hardships, he had contracted a severe cough, which terminated in consumption and death, soon after reaching home. Our informant, Solomon Karker, is a nephew of the Karker prisoners, and was conversant with the men themselves and has been a faithful as well as retentive listener to many interesting conversations between the actors of the Revolution.

We find many pages of charming reading in the history of our County, in admiration of less worthy characters than Lieutenant Borst. We find, as in other cases, the praise of doing was given many times to those who pretended to do and the risks and valor of the quiet and unpretending were coveted by unprincipled braggadocio, and handed down to us to admire. Borst possessed one of the most daring spirits that those times produced, and no labor, endurance, danger or sacrifice was too great for him to lay upon the altar of Liberty and Independence. But the noble patriot lived not to enjoy the sweets of his labors. He drooped and died as the tree of liberty began to thicken with the foliage of political and religious blessings.

The closing life of Rev. Peter N. Sommers, was passed in this town, a few rods to the west of the "St. John's Evangelical church." After preaching over forty years, in various places, but principally at Schoharie, and becoming blind, he settled here and preached occasionally in the neighboring churches and houses. Formerly he performed his ministerial journeys on foot and undoubtedly did not consider his task any more laborious than do many of our modern preachers that have two parishes under their charge a few miles apart. The people of those days

seemed to have been created with constitutional strength and capacity for the times, and no amount of endurance was too great for them. Sommers was a ripe scholar and wrote several theological works, also a dictionary of English, High and Low Dutch, words and scriptural passages, which we believe to be the first one written in America, and which is now in the care of the Lutheran Archaeological Institute at Gettysburgh, with other works of his composition.

We believe his ability to have been greater than is generally conceded, from the fact that his charges were made up of a too illiterate class of people to appreciate his talents. Yet his ministry was successful in the extreme, which shows a mark of greatness in humbling his talented mind to parallel ideas and reasonings of his rude and uneducated flocks. His nephew, Mr. David Sommers, has the old gentleman's Bible, which he brought with him from Germany, and from which he preached so faithfully and earnestly so many long years. The book is bound with heavy hog-skin leather over oak board covers of three-eighths inch thickness, and formerly decorated with heavy brass clasps. The book is prodigious in dimensions, it being nearly eight inches in thickness, eighteen in length, and twelve in breadth, and embellished with large wood cuts of very fine workmanship for those times. It bears the date of 1736. It being very heavy and having been carried here and there, during the Revolution, for safety, and many times the exigency of the case could not warrant careful handling, it has sprung the binding, but otherwise it has been kept very neat, and is in a good state of preservation. It is a relic of great worth, and a place should be established by the County for the keeping of all such boons as have been handed down to us by our worthy ancestors, there to be preserved in the original form. Those writings at Gettysburgh should adorn the shelves of a like place in our County, or State, at least. Mr. Sommers showed us a manuscript of Bible passages in English, High and Low Dutch, that were written by his grandfather, in a plain, neat and precise manner, and which we think were for school purposes, as it was common for the then languages to be used, independent of each other in the schools and religious meetings. Reverend

Sommers organized the Rhinebeck and "Turlah" churches, in 1775. The former was called "St. Peter's," and the latter "St. John's." The Turlah meetings, previous to 1796, were held in barns, (they being more spacious than the houses,) when a church edifice was built upon the brow of the hill below Mr. — Empie's, but which was taken down upon the building of the present structure. A few graves mark the spot, as well as the neglect of the present age in caring for the resting places of those who founded our happy homes. Rev. Henry A. Moeller, was the first resident pastor, as also of St. Peter's, and the same pastors officiated in the two churches up to the closing of services in that ancient edifice. Since that time the following have been the pastors, with the dates of their coming, as near as Mr. David Sommers can inform us:—

- 1842—James Fenner.
- 1845—A. L. Bridgman.
- 1847—Martin J. Stover.
- 1848—W. H. Emerick.
- 1855—L. Swackhammer.
- 1858—H. Wheeler.
- 1864—N. Wert.
- 1866—Hemperly.
- 1868—I. S. Porter.
- 1870—N. Klock.
- 1874—Henry Keller.
- 1877—do
- 1877—M. J. Stover, and present.

The first records of this society are lost, and the present ones, as with the majority of churches, are not kept in a systematic manner, as they should be. This society was re-organized on the 6th of June, 1808, according to an act of legislature passed the 27th of March, 1801. We find Jacob Anthony, Peter Traber, and Nicholas Sommers, were then trustees, and Jacob Crounse, clerk. The articles of organization were signed by Henry France, and John Sommers. During the long term of years since that day, we find, with the exception of a few short seasons, that David Sommers, Robert S. Conyer, and John H. Sternbergh, have officiated as clerks of the society.

The Reformed Church of Dorlach was erected the same year that the Lutherans built the

church upon the hill, and still stands as a monument of other days. It has been twice repaired since its erection. The organization dates back to 1771, and was sustained in conjunction with the "Rhinebeck Reformed" (now Lawyerville,) as St. Peter's and St. John's were, although *two*, yet *one*.

There was not a resident pastor over the organizations until the year 1796, and from that date to the present time nearly the same pastors have officiated as at New Rhinebeck and Lawyerville:—

- 1796—1798—Bort.
- 1801—1811—Labagh.
- 1816—1820—U. Jones.
- 1829—1832—Raymond.
- 1833—1837—Bassler.
- 1838—1840—Frazee.
- 1841—1845—Chitenden.
- 1846—1848—Bogardus.
- 1849—1850—Eckel.
- 1852—1853—Julian.
- 1855—1856—N. W. Jones, [ss.]
- 1856—1864—Raymond.
- 1867—1871—VanWoert.
- 1871—1874—Shaffier.
- 1875—1877—Carr.
- 1877—1879—Kershaw, [ss.]

At present the church is without a pastor, and as to the organization, all that can be gleaned is given in the Cobleskill Chapter of this work, under the head of the Reformed Church of Lawyerville.

We will here add, that a more regular organization than at first of this branch was made the 31st of July, 1795. It should be understood that the churches formed in the border settlements, at an early day, were not organized as at a later date. There was no formality, but simply a "coming together" and establishing a society without any prescribed rules or instructions from Synods or Presbyteries, and when they became established, and the head-orders of the church able to reach them and assist, they re-organized them, according to established tenets of such church.

Condition of Settlers.—While the settlers of the town were well-to-do farmers up to the

years 1780 and 1781, the inroads made upon their productions by Colonel Willett and Indians, left them in poverty and compelled the most of them to resort to Schoharie or the Mohawk. They did not feel safe personally, and to delve along through the season and have it taken from them in the fall without a recompense was too discouraging, and they quit their places, as the timid and the bold Tories had done before. When peace was proclaimed they returned, bringing with them others, who settled near, and all began to make the forest again disappear before their vigorous strokes, and by the year 1800 but a small part, if any, of the town remained unoccupied.

Several farms were confiscated, as their owners had proved loyal to the Crown, and did everything to injure the Colonial cause. And several instances occurred where a covetous neighbor made charges of Toryism against others to obtain his possessions at reduced rates, which caused no little trouble, and also implanted a hatred that is easily aroused, even at this late day. Such charges were not sustained, as it was an easy matter to convince by positive proof, the confiscation committee of true patriotism or Toryism. We can say the settlers as they returned were poor, and the year 1784 was one of hardships to them, as the fore part of the season was continual rain, and the latter continual drought. Petitions were sent abroad to older settlements for subsistence, and were liberally responded to, which perhaps saved them from famine.

Turnpike.—In 1793 the route of the "Great Western Turnpike" was laid out through the town, and promises made of a great western thoroughfare that would prove of immense advantage to the country. But long years passed before a regular wagon road was constructed, not until 1806 and 1807. In 1802 the Loonenbergh road (now Athens-on-the-Hudson) was surveyed but not completed until 1810 and 1811. These roads were the great thoroughfares, and both running through the town, gave an impetus in business that was astonishing. The immigration from the Hudson river counties and the Eastern States to the west was made by ox and horse teams before

large covered wagons with broad tire, and the country being new produced a large quantity of grain, which was carted to Albany and Catskill, making an immense amount of travel, and gave existence to numberless houses of entertainment then called taverns.

Taverns.—The first one upon the Loonenbergh road that we will notice was at Beekman's Corners, kept by Jacob Crounse, of Guilderland, a ready compounder of "flips" and "toddy," much to the satisfaction of his many customers, and above him, to the west, was one kept by Cornelius Beekman, son of Judge Beekman.

Militia training was here frequently held, and it was during one of the drills at this place in 1812, that Lieutenant William Elmandorf, of Lawyersville, (and afterwards Major) procured a fifer and drummer, and marched around the grounds calling for volunteers to join the army on the northern frontier. This company was the first that went from Schoharie County, and did signal service, as will be seen by consulting Chapter IV.

BECKMAN'S CORNERS.

Beekman's Corners which seems to be so isolated at the present time, was in the first quarter of the century the most prominent part of the town, with the exception of Leesville. Here Judge Beekman resided, and around him clustered a sturdy class of people who looked upon him with honor and marked confidence. During a somewhat heated political campaign, a warm politician of the Whig faction asked a neighbor of his if he would support the Whig candidate. He thought a moment and replied, "Shust as Shudge Peekmon dells me." We find the old settlers of each settlement had their confidential advisor, and every matter was left to him, on the plea that they had not the time to consider *weighty* matters. A short distance to the east Peter A. Hilton, a very energetic man, after a few years in the mercantile trade near the Centre church in Seward, built the present brick mansion and storehouse now owned and occupied by Mr. John Pindar. Mr. Hilton held several official positions in the town, beside representing the town in the Board of Supervisors in

1815 and again in 1819. He represented the County in the Assembly in 1812, 1813, 1816 and 1817, with Heman Hickok, Wm. C. Bouck, Thomas Lawyer, Isaac Barber and Aaron Hubbard, and proved a successful legislator. A copartnership was formed between him and Jacob Crounse, which lasted several years. Becoming aged he sold his farm to Judge Robert Eldredge and settled at Hyndsville in 1838, where his son continues the mercantile business.

Robert Eldredge was supervisor of the town in 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1834, 1835, 1836 and 1840, member of assembly, in 1826 and 1831, with Martinus Mattice of Middleburgh, and Daniel Hager, Jr., of North Blenheim, and received the appointment of assistant judge of Common Pleas, in 1832. While we are not led to think that as grave and intricate judicial labors and duties engaged the minds of the two judges found here, as now, yet we find they performed their duties assigned them, with satisfaction and dignity. Judge Eldredge was an associate with John C. Wright, and was born in this town in 1795, and died in December, 1848, consequently was fifty-three years of age.

His grandfather, Edward Eldredge, in company with a brother, emigrated from Wales, and settled upon Cape Cod, Massachusetts. After residing there a short time, he came to this town in 1788.

He had five sons. Barnabas was the fourth, and was the father of Robert and Seth. He represented the County in the legislature in 1820, and 1821. Seth also held the same position in 1844, and his son Edward in 1865. Thus we see the Eldredge family have been prominent citizens of the town and County, in an official point of view, and perhaps few families can be found, who possess the genius required to "keep a hotel" equal to this family, from the oldest to the youngest. Their fame is known to the traveling public, as adepts in the business to which we shall hereafter have occasion to allude.

While we are here at the "corners," it would be unjust not to refer to one who was long a resident here, and whose career has been quite different from those of whom we have made mention. While they were useful in the official

arena, solving intricate legal questions and debating upon enactments, this quiet neighbor attended to the ills to which the flesh is heir, and spent many years in literary pursuits, beside studying the art of portrait painting—three avocations that are the least appreciated by the majority of people, and upon the labors of which fortune has but few smiles as financial emoluments.

Dr. Sylvanus Palmer.—In 1840 the political excitement over Harrison's election ran to extremes. While the nation was awakened to sing "Zip Coon," drink hard cider and build log houses in honor of the rural birth and life of "Tippecanoe," New York was also ablaze over her Gubernatorial election, especially Schoharie County, as the Democratic candidate was one of her prominent citizens. Wm. C. Bouck, Wm. H. Seward and Gerritt Smith were the contestants, but Seward being in the all-powerful current with Harrison, he was elected by a majority of 2,541 over both Bouck and Smith. Believing in Bouck's honesty and popularity, his adherents kept his political virtues before the people and renominated him in 1842 and were successful in his election. Great excitement prevailed, and during the two campaigns numberless grave and humorous missives were published and sung against Bouck and the party that elected him. There never was an election that brought out more political genius and wit than those of 1840 and 1842. Governor Bouck had held various official positions, among which was that of Canal Commissioner, and in the performance of his duties he rode a gray mare, as he superintended all the works himself and did not entrust them to sub-officers. His opponents said he was so accustomed to stop upon meeting any one to shake hands, for political objects, that the old mare did not require a rein or word of command in carrying Bouck from one end of the "canawl" to the other, and stopping to allow him to shake hands with working men—especially before election.

The famous Sour Krout Message was published without a knowledge of the author, and created an endless amount of merriment. Dr. Palmer was the author, and was known in the literary world as Peter Paradox. He was born

near Canastota station on the 4th of August, 1804. He was a teacher in his earliest days, and commenced the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Shepherd, at Lawyersville, in 1822, and began to practice in that town immediately after receiving his license in 1825. He married Mary, the daughter of Major Elmandorf, in 1826. The Doctor early cultivated an artistic taste, and painted many portraits that exhibit his genius in the art. His literary productions have been many, and each are in commendable taste, in sentiment humorous and display ingenious wit from a copious fount. No more agreeable conversationalist could be found than the doctor, and he was ever ready to be amusing and instructive. He died suddenly at his home, in October, 1880.

Farther on to the west, near the Reformed church, an inn was kept for many years by John Vanderwerken, under whose supervision the annual three days' horse racing was witnessed, much to the merriment of the country folk and advantages of "mine host's pocket-book." The people of this section were, as of others to which we have referred, fond of "gala days," such as "training," "horse racing" and "law suits," and turned out without regard to age, condition or sex. Farther on to the west was the last "stopping place" for travelers, and nightly gatherings for neighbors on the Loonenbergh in the town of Sharon. It was known as the "Sharpe place" for many years, and was long occupied by Daniel Feathers, previous to his removal to Rockville.

ENGLE'S MILLS.

Peter, Martin, Mathias, Jacob and Henry Engle, sons of Jacob Engle, of Berne, Albany county, settled in this County about the year 1798. The latter located in the town of Middleburgh, while the former four brothers settled in this town. They are of the same family originally of those spelling the name with an A, making it *Angle*, that are numerous throughout the County. *Engle* is correct, and should be adopted by the whole family. Peter Engle built a grist-mill about the year 1810, and during his life built there at different times, near the present mill site. His son, Moses Engle, is the present

proprietor, and although the silver tints of age crown his locks, yet the vigor of his muscular frame bids fair for him to witness the centennial year of his father's settlement upon the farm. The first settlers of this portion of the town were the Baxter family, the descendants of whom yet live near.

LEESVILLE.

Upon establishing a mail route over the great western turnpike in 1805, Sharon post-office was here located, and for many years this little hamlet was the chief business center. Here were three hotels, two stores, a tannery, beside blacksmith and other shops that are usually found in a busy country village. Here Calvin Rich settled in 1784 from Sharon, Conn. He was of a legal turn of mind, and did considerable business in justice courts, and during the war of 1812 he was Colonel upon the northern frontier in General Richard Dodge's brigade. Mrs. Cornelius Lane, of Friesbush, is a daughter of the Colonel, and is the only one of the family left in this section of the country. The Colonel settled upon the farm now owned and occupied by Alvin Dockstader. At the time of Rich's settlement there were others from the east that settled near that we will here mention, before we allude to the present.

Calvin Pike came in 1785, settled upon Clinton Lehman's present place, and was, like Colonel Rich, a Yankee and pettifogger in law, being Rich's opponent usually in legal troubles. These two men were without doubt better qualified for public officials than many that were chosen, but being extreme Federalists they were not thus honored.

Hezekiah Adams came from Massachusetts about the year 1785, and settled upon the farm now owned by Joseph Ward, and was the father of the present Mrs. Daniel Feathers, Mrs. John Pindar, Mrs. Anthony Simmons, Mrs. Walter Walradt and Henry Adams, of Troy, Wisconsin. John Hutt, another Yankee, came in the same year and settled upon the George Dunkle place, and built the first saw-mill in the present territory of the town. He afterwards built clothing works down near the sulphur springs long before any road but a foot-path was constructed to

reach it from the present turnpike. A short distance below, Omed I. a Grange built a small grist-mill near where Bang's plane factory stands, about the year 1798.

DORMANT VILLAGES.

The old turnpikes are but little traveled at the present time, and the rattling stage-coaches have vanished, and in their stead the screeching, puffing iron-horse, before long trains of moving palaces, wind around the hills, occasionally crossing the old roads, but unblushingly pass on without "paying toll" at the rate of speed that would leave the "Jehu's" of other days far back in the shade, wondering what will come next. The grass nearly covers the old road-bed—gloom is written upon the crumbling mile-stones, and this small hamlet, as many others along the turnpike lines that were once so busy, is growing grey with the moss of inactivity.

Most of the route taken by the railroad through Sharon and Seward was surveyed for the Erie Canal before its construction along the Mohawk, to intersect the Hudson at Catskill, upon the supposition that the distance would be lessened from Buffalo to tidewater by cutting across from Utica. If this route had been established, Catskill would have been to-day, what Albany is, as a business center.

In visiting Leesville we find a few aged ones remaining as links of the past, but none as active as Mathew Ottman, at the age of eighty-one. Accompanying him in a walk of one mile and one half over railroad ties, we found him too active to make the walk agreeable to us, whose years are but half of his. He assured us he chopped his two cords of wood each day the last winter, and "did his chores." While a young man, his strength was great, as upon a wager he carried eleven bushels of wheat across the barn floor. He stood upon his hands and knees, while others piled the bags upon his back, and carried the eleven bushels without faltering. Mr. Ottman's father was William Ottman, one of the three brothers that were taken prisoners in the fall of 1782, as stated in the Seward Chapter, and is a genuine type of the early settlers, not gigantic in size, but of medium height and muscular. He is a consistent member of the

Lutheran church, and was instrumental in the building of the same at this place by his liberality and labors. This organization is called the "Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation, of Leesville."

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation, of Leesville.—This church was organized by Rev. Philip Weiting, in 1853. The first officers were:—

Trustees—Mathew Ottman, John H. Snyder and Sebastian Fonda.

Deacons—Mathew Ottman and J. H. Snyder.

Clerk—Peter A. Ham.

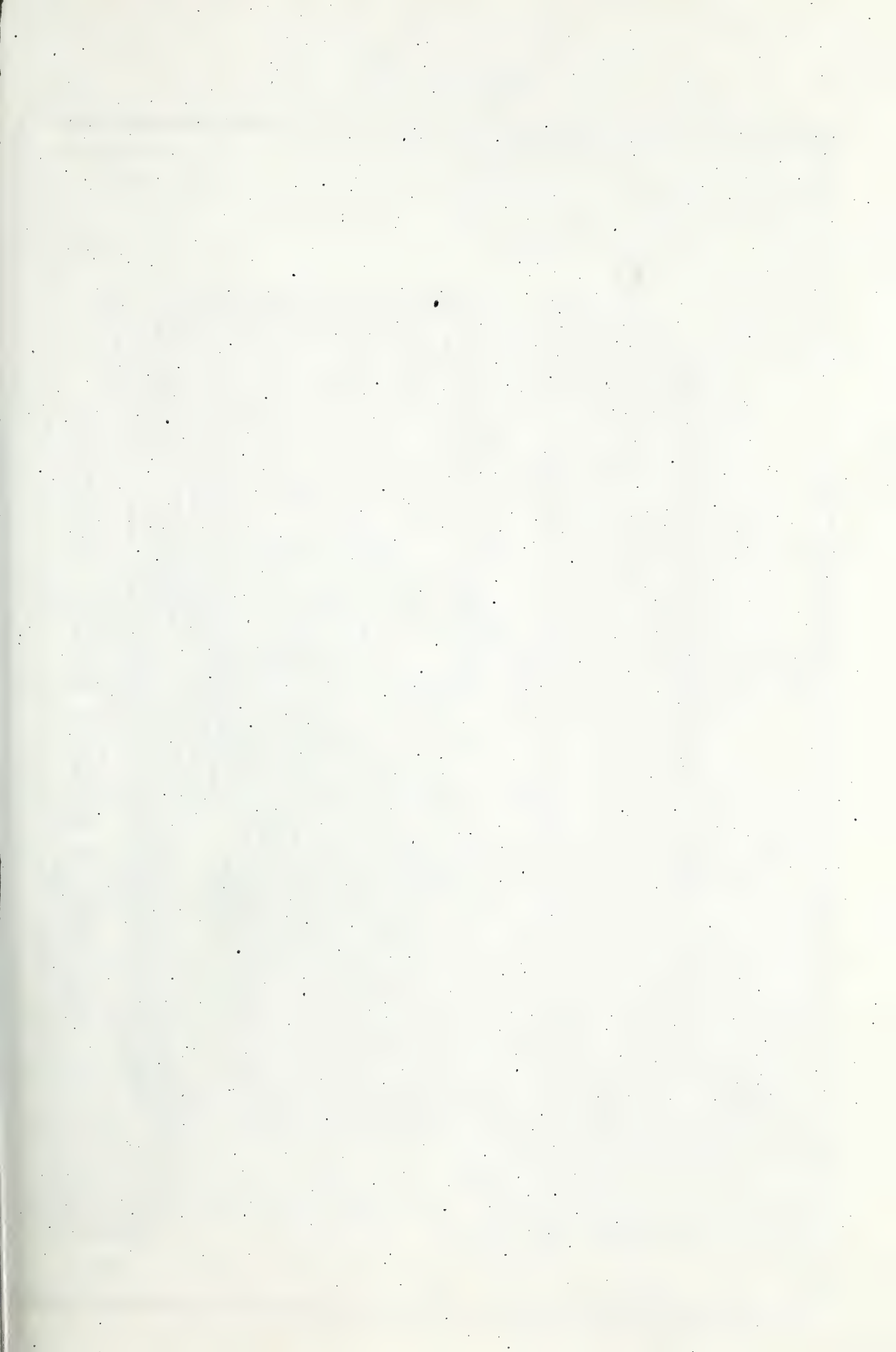
The following were the pastors:—

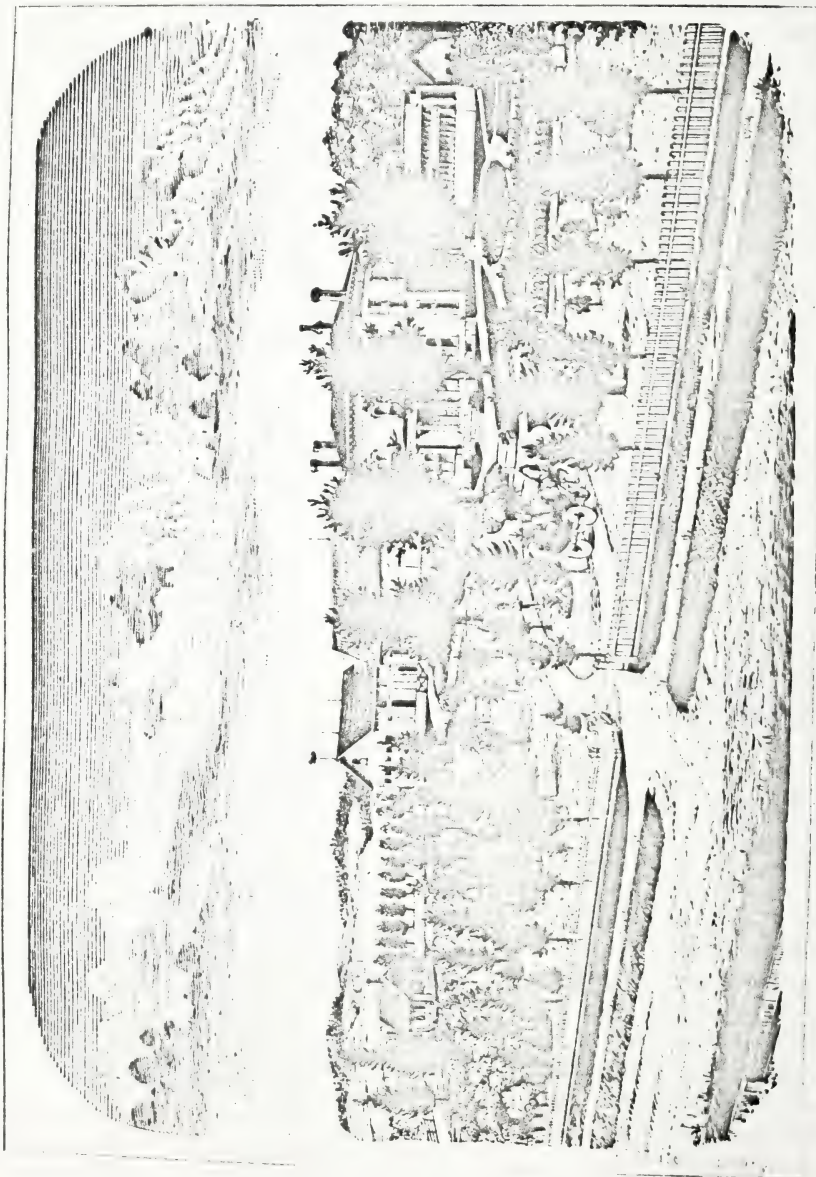
P. Weiting,
George Young,
M. Kling,
William H. Sheldon,
Jacob Rosenbergh,
G. W. Hemperly,
Chauncey Diefendorf,
James Weaver,
Samuel Bruce,
A. L. Bridgman.

The edifice was built in 1854 upon grounds formerly occupied by a hotel long kept by Elihu Eldredge.

Leesville Baptist Church.—The Rev. R. H. Weeks, present pastor of this church, in a communication, says:—

"It was constituted August 6, 1835, with twenty-nine members, twelve of whom were males, and seventeen were females, who had been connected with the church at Argusville. During the first years of its history, its increase in membership was rapid, and it soon numbered more than one hundred. Since then, it has passed the usual experience of churches, of increase and diminution. A goodly number of its members have entered and become useful in the gospel ministry. One is now pursuing a course of study at Hamilton, with reference to the sacred office. Our present membership numbers one hundred and ten.





RESIDENCE OF SARAH E. BECKER, SHARON, N. Y.

The present deacons are :—

Adam Shaul,
Christopher Platner,
Jacob Hone.

The following is a list of the pastors, with their terms of service :—

1835-1839—Henry Topping.
1839-1848—George F. Post.
1848-1849—John Fulton.
1850-1856—Peter Goo.
1856-1860—C. C. Bourne.
1860-1867—Roswell Collins.
1867-1870—C. C. Hart.
1870-1873—E. Jewett.
1873-1880—J. M. Joslyn.
1880— —R. H. Weeks.

The clerks have been :—

1835-1838—Phineas Rowley.
1838-1849—W. L. Judd.
1850-1852—Henry H. Foland.
1852-1857—A. Haner.
1857-1860—J. L. Fox.
1860-1863—A. Haner.
1863-1865—Albert Hone.
1865-1868—Nelson Handy.
1868-1870—Albert Hone.
1870-1882—George Tucker."

The house of worship was moved from its original location to its present one in 1852.

John Beekman, son of Judge Beekman, was for a long time an enterprising merchant at this hamlet, beside William Becker, Nelson Eldredge, Garrett Hone, W. E. Sprong—Hone & Sprong were partners. Mr. Sprong removed to Rockville, and in connection with Mr. Nathan Stratton managed a co-operative store, which proved a success, it being the only one of the kind in the County. In justice to an able official we will here refer to Mr. William E. Sprong, who has held the office of Justice in the town for the term of thirty-one years. His early life was spent in teaching school and serving as legal scribe of the neighborhood in which his services as teacher were required. Removing from Argusville to Leesville in 1848, he was immediately elected Justice, which office he still holds.

Sharon Cemetery.—This Cemetery Association was formed in 1867, and their grounds, lying east of the village of Leesville, command one of the finest views to be found in the country. The plats are artistically laid out, and cover seven acres of ground.

ROCKVILLE.

Upon the completion of the turnpike the rush of travelers being great, Barnabas Eldredge purchased a building that stood east of "Shaul's" present hotel, and for a while kept by Isaac Tinkum as an inn, and removed it across the road upon the grounds of "Feathers' Hotel." Tinkum built in 1808. Eldredge kept this house for many years, and from time to time additions were made to it. It became the property of Daniel Feathers, and was burned in 1864. The present structure was erected in 1865, it being a portion of "Carlisle Seminary." Quite a settlement was made here at the "Rocks" as it is familiarly called, before any village existed near the springs. In 1863 S. Shaul built the hotel opposite of Feathers, for the accommodation of summer boarders, and each enjoys a lucrative patronage each season.

SHARON SPRINGS.

Long years before any efforts were made to accommodate the health-seeking populace, the mineral property of the different springs attracted those troubled with cutaneous diseases. The afflicted for many miles around procured the waters in quantity and used them at their homes, and found them beneficial. The Indians also used them, as when the whites first came here trees were marked leading to them from every direction. One of the Mohawk's paths leading to the Charlotte led past them, and many trinkets and utensils cut from stone were found here, which lead us to conjecture that an encampment was occasionally made by them. Owing to the customs or negligent care of their bodies, the Indians are much afflicted with cutaneous diseases, especially in the spring time, and undoubtedly they found relief in the use of these waters.

The first steps taken to accommodate the public, were by David Eldredge who moved a

house that stood near the "Pavilion" down near the Springs in 1825, and kept a few boarders. Believing the enterprise could be made a success, the next season he added to his accommodations, and the season following was favored with twenty-five boarders, which number increased each season, and others were led to embark in the business. In 1836 a company from New York City built a large boarding-house, the "Pavilion," for the better convenience of visitors, which has received several additions from time to time and is now capable of accommodating five hundred boarders. Beside the main building, the present proprietors, J. H. Gardner & Son, have built seven highly finished and furnished cottages (for private families), that are in close proximity to the "Pavilion," and form the largest establishment at the Spa, or in the County. We believe the building was opened under the management of "Getty & Williams," in 1837, and soon after by J. H. Gardner and Joseph Landon. After, the firm was changed to Gardner & Joslin, and then again to Gardner & Landon, the latter being William, a nephew of Joseph, a former partner. Mr. Gardner at last became sole owner and connected himself with his son, J. H. Gardner, Jr., and formed the present firm of J. H. Gardner & Son. By Mr. Gardner's practical method of managing affairs, the enterprise has proved a success as a profitable investment and model establishment.

From time to time other large hotels have been erected at great expense, and we find today ten large hotels, including the two already mentioned at Rockville. Numberless private families also accommodate boarders through the season, making an interesting and attractive center. The following are the main hotels and present proprietors:—

Pavilion—J. H. Gardner & Son.
 Empire—Geo. J. Best.
 Union Hall—Christian Saur.
 Howland House—Sarah Howland.
 American—N. M. LaRue.
 Park House—Fred Egan.
 Rockville Hotel—C. Shaul.
 Sharon House—Peter Sharpe.
 Feathers' House—Daniel Feathers.

Fire has laid three large hotels in ashes within a few years that added very much to the appearance of the place and accommodation of visitors.

Jacob J. Anthony built a fine building in 1857, known as the "Anthony House," but the fall of 1860 found it in ashes. Another of greater dimensions was built in the season following which also burned in December, 1879.

Eldredge House.—Seth Eldredge, whom we have already noticed, built a large hotel upon Main street in 1850, and opened it to the public in June, 1851. Several additions were made to it as patronage increased, and upon its burning in August, 1873, three hundred boarders could be pleasantly accommodated. Mr. Eldredge was connected with his son-in-law, William Landon, a former partner of J. H. Gardner. Mr. Eldredge, after an active and useful life, died June 24, 1880.

Congress Hall.—H. J. Bangs, of New York City, purchased the land surrounding the Springs and built a large hotel in the summer of 1860. He expended a large amount of money in beautifying the grounds; building arbors, temples, and laying out walks; building bath-rooms and other improvements for the convenience and pleasure of visitors. The hotel burned in the fall of 1875, entailing a heavy loss.

Mr. Bangs erected a large building near the cascade for the manufacture of carpenters' planes, but it proved a non-paying enterprise. We cannot recall a man that has done as much for the prosperity of the place as Mr. Bangs. He came to it with a fortune and expended it here, and upon his death was a poor man.

The analysis of the waters found at this celebrated Spa is, as furnished by Dr. J. Green:—

White Sulphur Spring.

Solid contents of one gallon:

| | | |
|---|------|-----|
| Bicarbonate of Magnesia..... | 24 | Gr. |
| Sulphate of Magnesia..... | 34 | " |
| Sulphate of Lime..... | 85.4 | " |
| Hydrosulphate of Magnesia and Lime..... | 3 | " |
| Chloride of Sodium and Magne- sium. | 2.7 | " |

149.1

Hydrosulphuric Acid Gas, or Sulphureted Hydrogen.....20.5 cubic in.
Temperature invariably 48° F.

Magnesia Spring.

Solid contents of one gallon :

| | |
|---|----------|
| Bicarbonate of Magnesia..... | 30.5 Gr. |
| Sulphate of Magnesia..... | 22.7 " |
| Sulphate of Lime..... | 76 " |
| Hydrosulphate of Magnesia and Lime..... | .5 " |
| Chloride of Sodium and Magnesium..... | 3.0 " |

132.7

Hydrosulphuric Acid Gas, or Sulphureted Hydrogen.....3.3 cubic in.
Temperature invariably 48° F.

Gardner Magnesia Spring.

Solid contents of one gallon :

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Sulphate of Magnesia..... | 19.680 Gr. |
| Sulphate of Lime..... | 93.500 " |
| Bicarbonate of Magnesia..... | 1.360 " |
| Bicarbonate of Lime..... | 9.698 " |
| Bicarbonate of Soda..... | .554 " |
| Chloride of Sodium..... | 1.232 " |
| Chloride of Magnesium..... | .438 " |
| Chloride of Calcium..... | .162 " |
| Sulphurets Calcium and Magnesia | .625 " |
| Silicic Acid..... | .400 " |

127.649

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Sulphuric Hydrogen..... | 6.00 cubic in. |
| Carbonic Acid..... | 2.22 " |
| Atmospheric Air..... | 3.00 " |

11.22

Temperature invariably 48° F.

Many hundreds flock to this Spa yearly for health and pleasure, more particularly the latter, as at all other American resorts, and owing to the shortness of the seasons, much must be done in a short space of time, which makes an unusually lively place while the heated term lasts. Sharon Springs has all the facilities for and characteristics of a much larger and more progressive resort, but why they are not employed and expanded we are unable to tell. The stream running through and the cascade below the

village, are of romantic beauty. The scenery, pleasant drives, wholesome atmosphere, and qualities of the springs, all invite and attract the tourist; while a fine stone quarry, an abundance of building timber, pleasant building sites, and a rich, productive country surrounding, should induce the residents to more pride and enterprise, to do their part as nature has, in making the place a lively competitor to other resorts. Here are presented to the geologist many beautiful specimens of fossil leaves and moss, whose tiny ribs and thread-like branches are perfectly preserved, and may be found upon the surface as well as beneath. In a small cave near—like a hidden casket—nature has placed the rare mineral *Anhydrous Sulphate of Lime*, though not in a large quantity, as decomposition of crystals is continually going on nearly in the same ratio of forming.

There are many wealthy families of various cities that yearly come to this place to spend the heated term, that do much for the benefit of the community. For their convenience and the good of the place, they formed a Church of the English order, and built a neat edifice and parsonage of Gothic architecture, that add much to the beauty and appearance of the village.

J. H. Gardner has, since its erection, been the leading officer of the organization, and under his earnest and watchful care, and the labors of the pastor, Rev. Paige, the church stands at the head of the order in the County.

Another worker in the Christian cause is the *Roman Catholic Church of Sharon Springs*, known as "St. Mary's Church." It is connected with the rectory of the Canajoharie Society, and has been under the pastorate of the following priests: Fathers Brennan, Halligan and Zoker. The latter gentleman at present officiates, but intends soon to return to Ireland, his native land, and retire from ministerial duties, after a very useful and exemplary life of many years in America. The edifice was built as a Union Church in 1857, but was not sustained, and the Roman Catholics purchased the property in 1859.

Merchants.—Marshall N. De Noyelles, now of Schoharie, was the first general merchant at the

Spa, beginning about the year 1848, and continuing several years. Mr. De Noyelles was supervisor of the town in 1854, 1859, 1860, 1865, 1867, 1868, and was an influential member of the Board, beside a practical business man. He was followed by Nathan W. Stratton, in general merchandise, who was also supervisor in 1871, 1872, and is at present in trade. John B. Hoag was for several years a contemporary with Messrs. De Noyelles and Stratton. He was Supervisor of the town in 1869, 1870, and elected to the Assembly in 1874. Mr. Hoag removed to Kansas, and now represents his adopted county in the Legislature of that State. Mr. — Fitch is at present in trade, also Wm. H. Beekman, who is the only one of the late Judge Beekman's family bearing the name now residing in the town. Mr. Beekman removed from Beekman's Corners, where he was engaged in trade.

SHARON CENTRE.

Two miles east of the Springs, Jacob Hiller settled in 1785, and when the turnpike was built he engaged in the hotel business. A store and a few houses were soon erected, and another hamlet received its birth to be killed by the enterprise and intelligence of a later day. But a short distance to the east John Beakley settled at an early day, about the year 1785, and we find him a member of the "Sharon Felicity Lodge" (Masonic) in 1800. His son, John Beakley, Jr., has been one of the prominent citizens of the town for many years, having been Supervisor in 1844 and 1864, and held the office of Justice of the Peace for sixteen years, beside other local positions of honor and trust. Near the Beakley farm Cornelius Van Alstine, of the Mohawk valley, early kept an inn, as did his neighbor, Adam Dockstader, a short distance below. While they acted well their part as citizens, successful farmers and obliging landlords, they long since removed their creaking, swinging signs, and passed away themselves, leaving their families to enjoy the fruits of their active labors.

SHARON, OR MOAK'S HOLLOW.

Christian Myndert was the first resident here, and upon the survey being made for the turn-

pike Tinas Pynneo, a practical physician from New England, purchased from Myndert the farm now owned in part by Seneca Bergh, and sometime after 1795 built a house for the public convenience, which was soon occupied by Elisha S. Wales and his son-in-law, Joseph Alexander, from Arlington, Vermont. Alexander kept a store and Wales the inn. The former died in 1803, and his widow afterwards married John Sharpe, who became the father of Joseph Sharp, the present resident of the Myndert farm. Upon the death of Mr. Sharpe his widow married Jedediah Miller. Another daughter married John Redington, who, upon the death of Mr. Redington, and her sister, Mrs. Miller, became the second wife of Miller. Mr. Wales met with a sudden death on the 10th of May, 1808, near the present residence of Orrin Griffith. He was upon a heavy load of potash, going to Albany, and having occasion to get off the load, he endeavored to mount the same while the team was in motion. He slipped and fell beneath the broad-tire wheels, and was literally crushed. The property was soon purchased by Zachary Keyes, an Eastern man. "Zack Keyes," as he was familiarly called, was a cute, fun loving, hospitable, yet rough man, and was known from one end of the road to the other as a practical joker. Many anecdotes are still related of him which are amusing and enough to fill a goodly sized volume. One perhaps will suffice. A temperance organization was formed in the town and its members knowing Zack's love of the cup, asked him in a very polite way to join. Ready at all times to comply with the wishes of his neighbors, he agreed to do so immediately, upon one condition, "to be allowed to use stimulants in the form of liquor when he washed sheep." Having, as most Yankees, a large flock, the temperance men did not mistrust any joke, from the fact that it was customary for all to use spirits upon that "chilly occasion," and they agreed to his proposal, thinking they were about to gain one good step towards a reformation of the man. Zack had a cosset sheep running in the yard, and whenever a chum asked him to drink or he felt thirsty, he would catch the cosset and throw him in a large tub filled with water which he had placed on purpose for the occasion. He

was sure to drink before and after the operation. The poor sheep, if not the lodge in general, must have had but little faith in the "reform" as far as Zack was concerned, as it was compelled to undergo the washing several times each day. He was a free-hearted, jolly, business man, and remained here several years, but at last removed to Cherry Valley where he died. Reuben Moak followed Keyes in the hotel, beside keeping a variety store, and the hamlet has borne the *sobriquet* of *Moak's Hollow* ever since.

Peter Cross, Joseph H. Ramsey, D. J. Dow and others have been engaged in the mercantile business here, but at present that branch of industry has flown.

About 1805 a small tannery was established near the bridge by one Sweatman, who built the house opposite of Mr. Sharp's. In 1847 the "Eagle Foundry" was built and conducted by ——— Anthony, who manufactured "sweep" horse-powers, and afterwards invented Harder's "Fearless" tread-powers. In 1848 or 1849, Elias Paige became the proprietor, and was succeeded by his son-in-law, George Fox, who was the proprietor when the establishment burned in the fall of 1880.

Back of Mr. Seneca Bergh's house upon the hill, near a few poplar trees, was a race-course and training ground, upon which a sad accident occurred at a Polk and Dallas ratification meeting in the fall of 1844. A small six-pound cannon was being used upon the occasion, which the young and much-excited people "crowded" in loading, to cause it to "speak in louder terms." Sods and pounded stone were used, which, making a dead weight for the powder to move, caused it to burst, throwing the trunnion several rods and killing James Van Schaaick, a promising man, instantly. He was the son of Koert Van Schaaick, a Revolutionary veteran, who removed from Monmouth, New Jersey, to Glen, Montgomery county, in 1796, and from thence to this place in 1800. There were four sons, two only with families, but one now living. Joseph W., recently deceased was an extensive farmer, and being honored with various local offices, from time to time, and serving upon the Board of Supervisors in 1849, he won, by his strict integrity,

conscientious principles and upright dealings, the explicit confidence of all who knew him, and their verdict "An honest man!" Leffret G. is also a prosperous farmer and another example of integrity. These families are true descendants of the Manhattan Van Schaaick's, who were burgomasters of that ancient city.

SHARON HILL.

Soon after the building of the Bergh Hotel, Peter Loucks built an "inn" upon the hill, which was for many years managed by his son, Andrew P. It subsequently came in the possession of one Beauman, and after that of Henry Shutts, who repaired it in 1837. William Thrall and George Dimmick followed each other during the palmy days of the stage line, and it was under Major Thrall the stand was favored as the "stage house" where horses were exchanged, meals taken, and a "round" or two of "flip." During Dimmick's stay, the four-horse stage line was withdrawn, and since then the house has exchanged owners many times, Henry McNeill occupying it for several years. Upon the corner to the west, Mr. Loucks built the present house about the year 1810, and established another son, William P., in the mercantile trade, and he proved successful. In 1839, Henry Shutts, of Cobleskill, built the present store occupied by John Malony, and engaged in trade with Abram A. Kneiskern, of Carlisle, and continued the same until 1844, when Robert Brown succeeded them, and remained till within a few years of the present date. The postoffice was established in 1810.

JOHANNES LOUCKS AND DAVENPORT FAMILIES.

We are led to think that Johannes Loucks and William Davenport were the first settlers in the "Rhinebeck" settlement. Johannes Loucks undoubtedly was a distant connection of Cornelius, Andrew, Peter, and other Middleburgh families bearing the name. He came direct from Ulster county by an Indian path, and when the war commenced, being a staunch patriot, and the neighborhood otherwise, he went back to his native place and remained until peace was proclaimed. His children were John, (Squire Henry Loucks' father,) John G.,

(father of Peter Loucks, long of Carlisle, now of Cobleskill,) Nicholas and Jacob. The children were small, and were brought on horseback, while the parents walked the entire distance in coming, and carried their small stock of clothing. They settled upon the farm now occupied by Squire Henry Loucks, and purchased a large tract of land.

With them came William Davenport, a direct descendant of John Davenport, of the Mayflower, being a great-grandson. In the possession of the late George Davenport's family is a relic of the pilgrim band, in a good state of preservation, it being a chest belonging to John, Richard and Samuel Davenport, three brothers, that came over in that time-honored vessel in 1620. The relic has been handed down from father to son through the long course of time with the greatest care. We are indebted to Mr. George Davenport for many interesting facts, as he possesses a large store of general knowledge in regard to the early history of the County, gained from extensive reading of documents and attentive listening to the aged ones that have long since passed away. Possessing a good memory, but few of greater pretensions were better informed than Mr. Davenport, or took a deeper interest in the events of other days, or possessed a warmer heart towards his country.

OTHER LOUCKS FAMILIES.

These families came to this neighborhood about the year 1765. There were two brothers, Peter and Andrew, the former settling upon the place now occupied by Daniel Loucks, and the latter upon the farm, of late called Slingerland's. A few years previous, 1760, an uncle of those two, Cornelius, settled upon the farm belonging to Harrison Kromer, now in Seward. Peter was a more energetic business man than Andrew, and had clearer views upon political matters, especially during the "struggle for liberty." In 1799 the High Dutch Reformed Church of Rhinebeck concluded to build a house of worship of their own, upon lands purchased for that purpose, and they cut and hewed the timber—(white oak and heavy enough for a temple)—ready for framing, when a controversy arose and the work stopped. The year follow-

ing, the church was built at Lawyersville. The timber was sold at auction and purchased by Peter Loucks, who erected the present residence of Daniel Loucks with it in 1802. Peter and Andrew were own brothers (see Middleburgh). Peter's children were William, John, Hallis, Daniel, Andrew P., Mrs. Peter Brown and Mrs. Joseph W. Van Schaick.

Prominent as a business man has been Isaac, son of Daniel, who inherited the business qualities of his grandfather Loucks, and the command of language of Dominie Labagh, his mother's father. While we do not find him in the list of officials, we see him as one of the most active business men of his day. No undertaking was too great to baffle his energies, but with the vim of an earnest commander over willing followers, he *made* business and it to obey his mind. If he had been placed as many other men, with great fortunes at his command, and brought in contact with the gigantic enterprises of this day, we feel assured he would have proved equal to them. With his small means and isolated position while in his prime, he did more business than the majority of his townsmen do at the present time.

Andrew Loucks had but two children, and both were daughters. Mrs. Bently removed to the west, and Mrs. Lemuel Cross settled near and reared an intelligent and useful family. Dr. Cross, of Newark, and the late Captain Peter Cross, were sons, the latter being the father of Dr. Lemuel Cross, Augustus, Andrew, and the late Mrs. Augustus C. Smith.

Peter, Mathias, and William Ball, sons of Johannes Ball, of Schoharie, the chairman of the Committee of Safety, settled in this town about the year 1813. Peter located upon the farm previously occupied by Dr. Pynneo, and now by his grandson, George F. He was during the latter part of the Revolution a Quartermaster, and drew a pension as long as he lived. His sons were William, John, and Peter M. William, brother of Peter, settled upon Henry Bellinger's farm, and Mathias upon a portion of Jacob Dockstader's.

They were during the war staunch patriots, as their father, against whom the stigma of disloyalty was never breathed, as they were daily in the service of their country.

KLING SETTLEMENT.

In the year 1758, Kling came from Germany, and after a short residence of three years at Stone Arabia, settled upon the present Van-Ness Eldredge farm. The old gentleman had two sons and one daughter, who married a McDougale, who proved to be a desperate Tory, and fled to Canada and did not return. His farm, now owned by James Voorhees, was forfeited. One of the sons wandered away from home when quite young, and was never found, while Luther married the eldest daughter of the patriotic Sebastian France, who it will be remembered, was born upon the ocean. They had four sons, Nicholas, George, Jacob, and Henry, that settled within the County and died, with the exception of Jacob, who removed to Wisconsin and is still living. It is a remarkable occurrence that he reared a family of twelve children, and each are now with families, without a death in the circle, except the wife and mother, of late deceased.

John Adam Kilts removed from Stone Arabia in 1790, and purchased the farm upon which Daniel and George Kilts, his grandsons, now reside. The old gentleman brought the boards with him from Stone Arabia to build a house. The tract of land upon which he settled was in dispute for many years, and at last settled by the Court, in Kilts producing large blocks cut from line trees, upon which were the marks made by early surveyors. John Adam here laid the foundation of the property which the present families bearing the name enjoy. He reared four sons, namely, Conradt, John, Adam, and Peter, who were the fathers of the present heads of the Kilts family.

Slate Hill Cemetery.—Among the many beautiful cemeteries that bespeak reverence for the dead, to be found in the County, none are more attractive than Slate Hill Cemetery. It is situated upon a lofty hill of slate formation, from which is presented one of those picturesque sceneries of hill, mountain and vale that abound throughout Schoharie County, whose beauty and grandeur none can but admire. It was incorporated July 6, 1866, and regularly laid out in large plats, and broad roadways and foot-

paths that are kept in the best of order. A receiving vault is near one of the entrances that was erected the same year, at a large expense. Many fine monuments are placed here that reflect credit upon the architect and the affection of the living towards the dead that lie beneath them. Upon them we find engraved, Wieting, Dockstader, Empie, Bellinger, Conyne, Ramsey, Borst, Eldredge, Van Slyke, Sommers, Pruyn, Loucks and Vroman, mostly families of the County, whose fathers' strong and sinewy arms felled the broad and heavy forest and laid the foundation of the wealth here displayed as well as that of our governmental structure, and who long since passed the sad ordeal of death, after lives ripe in affliction and adversity.

Here lies the first resident pastor of St. Peter's and St. John's churches, and his son, Dr. John C. Moeller, whose usefulness in life deserves a passing tribute. He was born near the Rhinebeck Church in 1788, and was educated under the care of his worthy father and accomplished mother. He studied medicine with Dr. Van-Dyke, of Schoharie, and settled in this town about the year 1814. He married Gertrude Traver, who died in 1830, at the age of thirty-nine years, leaving six children: Mrs. Duryea Beekman, Mrs. Samuel Beekman, Mrs. Van-Ness Eldredge, Mrs. Jacob H. Diefendorf, E. L. H. Moeller, of Albany, and Augustus Moeller, of Chicago. The Doctor was a very skillful physician who took pride in his profession, and was one of the leading men in the Lutheran church. He represented the town upon the Board of Supervisors in 1846, and died on the 5th of May, 1849, at the age of sixty-one.

Rev. Moeller's life was sprinkled a little with romance that perhaps may be of interest. His first wife was a very unpleasant companion, as she was a scold, and while the army to which the Dominic was attached lay at Philadelphia a barbecue was held upon the ice, to which his wife was counseled not to attend fearful of getting cold, but she went, and, as predicted by her faithful husband, she caught a severe cold and soon after died. While at the barbecue the husband met the accomplished wife of a Prussian Count, by the name of Zebwitz, who was upon a tour through the Colonies at the time the war commenced. The British block-

aded the Colonial ports, and he could not return home. He espoused the Patriots' cause, and was commissioned a General after the death of Montgomery, under whom he fought at Quebec. Mrs. Zebwitz was also fascinated with the Dominie, but undoubtedly kept it to herself, and during the stay at Philadelphia they were much in each others company, and each was admired by the other. Ere the war closed the Count died, and the pair wedded, and the union was most pleasing. In 1787 they settled at Rhinebeck, a very objectionable location for one whose past days had been spent in regal splendor. They were laboring, conscientious Christians, and willingly deprived themselves of ease and the luxuries of life, for the Master. The Count and Countess had two sons that died a few years after the father. The fruits of the last marriage were Dr. John C. and Julia, the wife of Dr. Almy, of Toddville, Otsego Co. We find engraved upon her tomb-stone that stands beside the husband's, "Julian, wife of Rev. Henry Moeller, died July 12th, 1824, aged seventy-five years and ten months," with an appropriate epitaph.

Bellinger Family.—The Bellinger family of this town has been a prominent one as successful farmers, and strict adherents to Calvinistic doctrines in a religious point of view. Their ancestors came from Germany, as will be seen by consulting the Middleburgh Chapter of this work. Those found here are chiefly descendants of Marcus, of Middleburgh. Hon Yost and John, sons of Marcus, settled here in 1791. The former had two sons, David and Yost, and the latter four, namely, John, Jr., William, Henry, and Marcus. The latter two have been prominent as preachers of the "True Reformed Church" over half a century. Henry preached regularly at this place, Bethlehem, Albany county, Greenbush, Wynderkill, and Piedmont, near New York City, and was revered by his different flocks as a noble, sincere man, full of Christian virtues, and an untiring servant of the Master. After expounding "the Word" to many thousands in his plain, unpretending manner, based upon strict doctrines, without sympathy to the so-called "liberal views" of other religious sects, he was called to the

realities of the "world beyond," while on the route to fill an appointment at Piedmont on the 11th of October, 1877, at the age of eighty-seven.

Marcus died within the past year. He commenced preaching about the time his brother did, but did not supply as many parishes. Canajoharie, Duanesburgh, and Middleburgh, were the fields of his labors, and he was also an untiring teacher. William is the only one of the four brothers living. One peculiarity attended the labors of these men, which is worthy of notice—the firm hold they had upon their followers. Through all the ecclesiastical changes from "conservative doctrines" to "liberal views" that have been going on for the last few years in most of the churches, these men whose views were so repugnant to the general idea of the day, have held their flocks and carried them through, without dissentious seceding, and stand to-day stronger in faith and numbers than ever. They received only a common school education, which must have been very limited, and were industrious farmers and more than common men. They were men of inflexible purposes, indomitable energies, and of superior tact.

Van Valkenburgh Family.—The original of this family name is Valk in German, and Falk in Holland Dutch, as we are informed by one of the family, Dr. Jacob Van Valkenburgh, whose researches into the family history have been extended. The ancestors of this branch of the Valk family came from Valkenburgh, at present within the bounds of Holland, and to distinguish them from those of higher Germany after they came to America, they were called after the place from which they came, viz: John or Henry Valk, from Valkenburgh, was changed to John or Henry Van Valkenburgh—*Van* meaning *from*. The first of that name in this town was John Joseph, who came from Middleburgh and purchased one hundred and sixty-six acres of land, now occupied by John J. and Adam Van Valkenburgh, in October, 1792, paying therefor one hundred and fifty-four pounds, four shillings. He had thirteen children, six sons and seven daughters. The sons were: Adam, John Joseph, Peter, Jacob, Joachim and

Henry. The original family of both branches used the German language.

Tillapaugh Family.—Referring to the origin of the Van Valkenburgh name, we will here allude to another, which is quite prominent in this and other northern towns of the County, that originated from another family. It is Tillapaugh. The original is Dillenbeck, which, when spoken by the old stamp of Germans, becomes "Dillapah," and when uttered by the English tongue, with a broader accent, it becomes Tillapaugh, as written now through the fancy of one of the Dillenbeck family that adopted the name. His own brothers, however, retained the original.

GILBERT'S CORNERS.

This settlement was made about the year 1794, by families from Stone Arabia, among whom was the Hyney family, (father of the late John Hyney), also the Taylor's and Gilbert's. The hamlet was named after Richard Gilbert. Myron Culver also was an early settler, and kept a small store for many years. The road leading from this place to the Springs is one from which fine views are obtained, especially near and at the "Pavilion." The long stretch of low land lying to the north, east and west along the Mohawk, presents an attractive scenery, while the mountains beyond make a varied back-ground that is most pleasing.

Physicians.—Tinas Pynneo was the first physician in the town, and settled upon the present George Ball place. George F. Fox studied and formed a partnership with him in 1820, but Pynneo died that year and Fox retained the field to within a few years. John C. Moeller came in 1814, and remained till his death in 1849. Sylvanus Palmer followed in 1825 at Beekman's Corners, and George B. Huddleston at Leesville about the same time. Theodore Gilbert, James Thompson, James Mereness, J. Green and James Snyder followed in succession at the latter place. Dr. Snyder, of late deceased, leaves the place without a professional physician for the first time in sixty years. Upon the building up of the village at the Springs, Dr. John Loucks settled there about the year 1840,

and was followed by S. F. Fonda, in 1850. After a practice at Leesville of seven years, Dr. Green located at the Spa in 1853, and is still in practice with Dr. Fonda. Doctors Jacob Dockstader, G. A. Williams and John T. Hard, all of the allopathic school, except Dr. Dockstader, who withdrew from that practice, and of late adopted the homeopathic, are also there. Dr. Jacob Van-Valkenburgh, of the eclectic school, succeeded Dr. Fox at Sharon Hill, and still remains, and to whom we are indebted for many facts connected with the history of Sharon.

True Reformed Church of Sharon Hill.—The "True Reformed Church of Sharon Hill" was organized in 1829, with Henry Bellinger at its head, having seceded from the "Reformed Church" of "Turlah" in that year. The society built a house of worship the season following, upon the forks of the roads leading to Gardnersville and Cobleskill. In 1857 or 1858 the present edifice was built upon Sharon Hill. Henry Bellinger was the officiating pastor as long as he lived, and since his death the pulpit has not been regularly supplied. The cause of seceding from the parent church was as we were informed by the late Dr. Palmer, long a member of this society, a difference of belief in the doctrine of election and fore-ordination, the seceders holding to the strict injunction of the doctrine.

Masonic Lodge of Sharon Springs No. 624.—This Lodge of "Free and Accepted Masons" was organized June 20, 1867, with Barnabas B. Eldredge as Worshipful Master.

Seth Eldredge, Senior Warden.

James W. Harper, Junior Warden.

L. H. Jackson, Secretary.

Joshua Ward, Seward Eldredge, Henry C. Snyder, William Fox, members.

The membership has increased over one hundred, and the Lodge is in a prospering condition. Their rooms are spacious and well furnished. The present officers are:—

James W. Harper, Worshipful Master.

A. P. Prime, Senior Warden.

Lyman D. Mereness, Junior Warden.

J. K. Harper, Treasurer.

W. H. Craig, Secretary.

A. J. Cook, Chaplain.
 Emmet Kilts, Senior Deacon.
 Andrew Turner, Junior Deacon.
 George Copp, Senior Master of Ceremonies.
 George Kilts, Junior Master of Ceremonies.
 Hezekiah Simmons, Tiler.
 Menzo France, Marshal.
 George Kilts, M. W. Stratton, J. H. Best,
 Trustees.

SHARON OFFICIALS.

This town presents a long list of officials.

Judge William Beekman, beside being the first County Judge, represented the district in the State Senate in 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802.

John Rice was the first Assemblyman from the County. His successors, including those from Seward, up to the time that town was formed were:—

John Rice, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1808, 1809, 1810.

Henry Bellinger, 1806.

Barnabas Eldredge, 1820, 1821.

Robert Eldredge, 1826, 1831.

Peter Hynds, 1829.

John F. Hiller, 1835.

George F. Fox, M. D., 1839.

Seth Eldredge, 1844.

James Parsons, 1848.

Edward Eldredge, 1865.

Robert Eldredge, Assistant Judge, 1833, 1838.

The old town records have been carefully preserved and give us the names of the supervisors as follows:—

1796—Tinas Pynneo.

1797—Tinas Pynneo.

1798—Peter Loucks.

1799—Peter Loucks.

1800—Peter Loucks.

1801—Peter Loucks.

1802—Peter Loucks.

1803—Peter Loucks.

1804—Peter Loucks.

1805—Peter Loucks.

1806—Peter Loucks.

1807—Peter Loucks.

1808—John Malick.

1809—John Malick.

1815—Peter A. Hilton.

1816—Jacob Crounse.

1817—Peter A. Hilton.

1818—John Rice.

1819—Peter A. Hilton.

1820—Jacob Crounse.

1821—Robert Eldredge.

1822—Robert Eldredge.

1823—Robert Eldredge.

1824—Robert Eldredge.

1825—Peter Hynds.

1826—Peter Hynds.

1827—Peter Hynds.

1828—Jacob Crounse.

1829—Jacob Crounse.

1830—Timothy Cook.

1831—John Scott.

1832—John F. Hiller.

1833—Adam Empie.

1834—Robert Eldredge.

1835—Robert Eldredge.

1836—Robert Eldredge.

1837—Martin Merckley.

1838—James Parsons.

1839—William Royce.

1840—Robert Eldredge.

1841—Seth Eldredge.

1842—Cornelius Beekman.

1843—Daniel D. Webster.

1844—John Beakley.

1845—David Becker.

1846—John C. Moeller.

1847—Seymour Smith.

1848—John C. Empie.

1849—J. W. Van Schaick.

1850—John L. Dockstader.

1851—Adam Empie.

1852—Seymour Smith.

1853—Joseph Zeh.

1854—M. N. De Noyelles.

1855—P. H. Sharp.

1856—Luther Taylor.

1857—Garrett Hone.

1858—Daniel Eldredge.

1859—M. N. De Noyelles.

1860—M. N. De Noyelles.

1861—Peter Low.

1862—Peter Low.

1863—John A. Empie.

- 1864—John Beakly.
- 1865—M. N. De Noyelles.
- 1866—Charles Craig.
- 1867—M. N. De Noyelles.
- 1868—M. N. De Noyelles.
- 1869—John B. Hoag.
- 1870—John B. Hoag.
- 1871—Nathan W. Stratton.
- 1872—Nathan W. Stratton.
- 1873—Augustus Parsons.
- 1874—Peter A. Bellinger.
- 1875—Peter A. Bellinger.
- 1876—Garrett Hone.
- 1877—Garrett Hone.
- 1878—Henry C. Lyker.
- 1879—Henry C. Lyker.
- 1880—Henry C. Lyker.
- 1881—Henry C. Lyker.
- 1882—Henry C. Lyker.

Upon the building of the railroad through the town, bonds were issued to the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, to aid in the construction, of which amount \$90,000 remained unpaid, July 1, 1881.

BOUNDARIES.

The boundaries of this town were defined in 1813, after those of the surrounding towns, and were only described as follows by statute:—

"And all that part of the said County of Schoharie bounded northerly, westerly, and southwesterly by the bounds of the County, and easterly and southeasterly by the towns of Carlisle and Cobleskill, shall be and continue a town by the name of Sharon." (36th Sess. Chap. CI., (R. L.) Vol. II.)

CHAPTER XVI.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF BLENHEIM.

BLENHEIM is one of the first towns formed in the County, and originally comprised the territory of Jefferson and a portion of Gilboa. The lands were first purchased of the government by John Weatherhead and John

Butler, in 1769 and 1771, although small tracts had been obtained from the Indians previous to that time, which Sir William Johnson declared to be void. But a small part of the territory was settled before the Revolution, only that bordering on Breakabeen, as farther up the stream the flats were not broad enough to suit the Germans; besides, the Indians located above after disposing of their lands at and below Schoharie. Upon the close of the Revolution the territory was soon populated, and the town has made progress in the ratio of others, considering the withering feature of lease lands and quit-rents that were early sprung upon the people. Had it not been for the unflinching obstinacy of the first German settlers of Schoharie and Middleburgh in opposing the schemes of landed autocrats and oppressive officials, a goodly share of the County to-day would have been chained down by yearly rents, and in a continual litigation. We will refer particularly to the rent troubles of this town after dwelling upon the early history of it and the patriotic settlers.

Captain Hager settled upon the farm now occupied by Adelbert West, and was the son of Henry Hager who located upon the present Daniel Zeh farm in the town of Fulton.

The father and son, Jacob, no doubt were the first families that settled south of the present village of Breakabeen. Jacob Schaeffer, of Weiser's dorf, and a Kneiskern family, of Beaverdam, and the Beacraft family soon followed them, and made a quiet settlement until the commencement of the war. Henry Hager came from Germany when a lad with an uncle, Jacob Frederick Hager, a preacher, who settled at the Camps. Three brothers of Henry also came at the same time, one settling in Hagers-town, Maryland, one in New Hampshire, and one upon the Mohawk. Henry sought the German flats, and in course of time married a sister of Mrs. General Herkimer, and then removed to this town, and at the commencement of the Revolution was surrounded by all the comforts and conveniences enjoyed by the farmer at that day. His family consisted of five sons and one daughter, namely, Joseph, Peter, John, Jacob, David, and Mrs. Judge John M. Brown. The

+ Anna M. 1782
Jacob Meyers

father was in service through the French war, and near its close, Jacob arrived at the required age to do military duty, and entered as a Lieutenant under Colonel Sternbergh.

Owing to their connection with the "upper fort," it being their especial field of patriotic labor, we refer to his career more particularly in the chapter upon that town. Upon the invasion by Crysler, Brant, and Seths Henry, of Vromansland in August, 1780, Captain Hager was upon his farm gathering his harvest, and was apprised of the affair by his brother, John, who mounted a horse upon the arrival of Leek at the fort with the sad news. Captain Hager was unloading hay when his brother came, and quickly throwing it off his wagon, the few inhabitants of that vicinity were taken into it, driven into the woods, and concealed near Keyser's Kill. Henry Hager started with the wagon, when a favorite dog, that began to bark, was caught by him, and fearing it would betray the fugitives, he cut its throat with his pocket-knife.

After proceeding some distance from his house, having forgotten some articles he intended to have taken with him, he returned and found it already occupied by the enemy, who made him their prisoner. He was seventy-seven years old, and, as he was known to the enemy to be a firm Whig, his sons (one a captain), and several of his grandsons all being in the rebel army, he was treated with marked severity. They burned all of the Hager buildings and proceeded on their march to the Susquehanna, and encamped for the night a short distance southwest of North Blenheim, or Patchin Hollow. "The wagon which carried them from their homes," says Author Simms, "was left in one place, the horses in another, and the women and children were sheltered beneath a shelving rock, in a ravine of the mountain stream before named." "After the women and children were disposed of, Captain Hager, taking with him his brother and Lawrence Bouck, Jacob Thomas and several others who composed the guard mentioned, proceeded from Keyser's Kill with due caution, to ascertain if the "upper fort" had been captured. It was nearly noon when Brant left the vicinity of the fort, and nearly night when its com-

mandant and his men reached it." "On the following day the women and children were removed to the fort."

Once while upon the journey to Niagara he received kind attention from an Indian. Being old and barefoot it was impossible for Hager to keep up with the party, and often he was found some distance in the rear, for which he was threatened with death each time, and upon the occasion referred to, he saw one of the savages coming on the backward track for the purpose he supposed, of carrying their threats into execution. Approaching him he spoke kindly and gave him something to eat, and after a friendly conversation upon a log by the roadside they continued the march. Hager was gone eleven months, when he was exchanged and returned to his desolated home.

Beacraft, the notorious Tory, who fled to Canada in 1777, and returned several times to different sections for murder and plunder, was a resident of this town. His uncalled for murders and taunting jeers of prisoners taken from their homes by Indian parties, made his name and presence the most distasteful to the patriots.* After peace was proclaimed he had the audacity to return to his old neighborhood, among those he had injured all he possibly could, to settle down again. Scarcely had the fact of his returning become known among the patriots than a squad of ten surrounded the house in which he was staying one night, and took the fiend to a grove of hickories a short distance below the Blenheim bridge, where they stripped off his clothing, undoubtedly without etiquette, and bound him to a fallen tree. Procuring ten withe hickory whips they surrounded him and gave him fifty lashes upon his bare back. At the conclusion of each ten, they reminded him of his infamous acts. The first was for being a Tory; second, for the murder of "that helpless boy, the son of Vroman, (see Fulton), whom you scalped and hung upon the fence;" third, "for aiding in the massacre of those who were your neighbors, the Vroman family;" fourth, "for taunts, jeers and insults when certain persons well-known to you were captives among a savage enemy;" fifth, "for

* Patchin's Narrative.

coming again to the bosom of that country upon which you have spit the venom of hate, and thus added insult to injury never to be forgotten." After thus punishing the villain they unbound and ordered him to "flee the country and never return."

It has been said he expressed his gratitude, after the fiftieth lash had been given, that he had been so gently dealt with, but there was not life enough left in him to say anything about it. He was buried a short distance from the whipping grounds, rather privately, where his ashes lie to-day. The reader would naturally ask who it was that meted justice to the murderer? If General Patchin, and brother, Isaac, Captain Hager, Lewalt Bartholomew and Casper Martin had been asked who the remaining five were, they would not have told, as the facts were to be kept a secret.

No actual engagements occurred in this town during the war, but several of the settlers were made prisoners, and forced to endure untold hardships. We will give space to General Freegift Patchin's narrative of his captive life, as published by him over sixty years ago. We will here state that his experience was that of nearly all others, but few, too few, of less torture and endurance, and who were constitutionally able to survive their hardships. In 1798, General Patchin settled where Joseph Fink now resides, and built a mill. He was appointed a General of the Militia, and represented the County in the Assembly in 1804, 1805, 1820, 1821 and 1822, being in six sessions, and was elected supervisor several terms. He was a very intelligent man considering his limited opportunities, and died August 30, 1831, at the age of seventy-three years, not having entirely recovered from the shock his constitution received while a captive. His children were: Mrs. George Martin, Mrs. Samuel Burns, afterwards Mrs. Nicholas Richtmyer, Lewis, Mrs. Frederick Hager, Charles, and Mrs. Joseph Johnson. Mrs. Martin is the only one living, being ninety years of age.

The Captivity and Sufferings of General Freegift Patchin.—In the year 1780, myself as well as the whole population about the region of old Schoharie, were held in readiness by

Colonel Peter Vroman as minute-men, to be ready at a moment's warning, as the Tories and Indians were a watchful and cruel enemy. Around the region of the head of the Delaware it was suspected there were persons who favored the cause of the British; a small company of men therefore were sent out as spies upon them, and also if possible to make a quantity of maple sugar, as an abundance of the maple grew there. Of this little company Captain Alexander Harper had the command. Fourteen persons were all that were sent out, among whom were myself, Isaac Patchin, my brother, Ezra Thorp, Lieutenant Henry Thorp, and Major Henry. It was early in the month of April—the second day of the month—when we came to the place of rendezvous, a distance from the forts of Schoharie of about thirty miles. A heavy snow-storm came on, during which about three feet of snow fell, in addition to that which was on the ground before. We were not in the least apprehensive of danger, as the nearest fort of the enemy was at Niagara; knowing also that Sullivan the year before had scoured the Chemung and Genesee countries, killed or driven the Indians to Canada; also as it was winter, and the snow very deep, we supposed were circumstances of sufficient magnitude to prevent marauding parties effectually from approaching from that quarter at that particular time. We had *tapped*, as the sugar making phrase is, a great number of trees, finding the proper utensils at hand, as they had been before occupied in the same way by the inhabitants who had fled to other places for safety. A few hundred pounds of maple sugar would have been a great acquisition, as the inmates of the forts were in want of all things, having been compelled to flee from their homes to Schoharie and other places of safety. We had proceeded in our enterprise as merrily as the fatiguing nature of the business would permit, a few days, when on the 7th of April, 1780, at about two o'clock in the afternoon, we were suddenly beset and surrounded by forty-three Indians and seven Tories. The names of the Tories I forbear to mention, except two or three, of whom the reader will hear in the course of the narrative, the rest I have thought proper not to name, as their descendants are

not chargeable with the misguided acts of their fathers, and it is not my wish at this time of day to cast reflections and grieve the innocent. So silent had been the approach of the enemy that three of our number lay weltering in their blood before I or any of the rest knew they were among us, as we were scattered here and there busy with our work. I was not far from our captain when I saw the Indians first, who were accosted by Brant, their leader, as follows:—"Harper, I am sorry to find you here." "Why," said Harper, "Captain Brant, are you sorry?" "Because," he replied, "I *must* kill you, though we were schoolmates in youth." Then he lifted and flourished his tomahawk over his head ready to execute the deed, but suddenly, as if paralyzed by a stroke of magic, stopped this act of murder, as if some new and important thought had crossed his mind—when he gazed at Harper with an eye as keen and deadly as a serpent, saying, "Are there any troops at the forts at Schoharie?" Harper perceived in a moment, that the answer to this question would either save their lives or procure their instant death; for if he should say *no*, which would have been the truth, the Indians would have killed them all and then proceeded to old Schoharie, massacring as they went, and cut off the whole inhabitants before help could have been had from any quarter, and the enemy, as a wolf, when the morning appears, flees with the shades of the night. Accordingly, he answered, "There are three hundred Continental troops now at the forts, who arrived there about three days since." But the whole of this statement was untrue; yet who will condemn the captain, and say the act would need much repentance ere it should have obtained forgiveness. On hearing this, the countenance of Brant fell, when he waved with his hand a signal to the chief, stopped the massacre, and called a council of war; all of which, from the time Brant had brandished his hatchet over the head of Harper, had been but the work of a moment.

The eleven survivors were seized, pinioned, and turned all together in a hog-pen, where they were kept till the morning. A guard of Tories, with one Beacraft by name at their head, was set over them in the pen—a bloody villain, as will appear in the course of this account.

All night Brant and his warriors, with the Tories, were in fierce consultation whether the prisoners should be put to death, or taken alive to Niagara. The chiefs appeared swayed by Brant, whose influence prevailed over the whole opposition of the murderous crew; there was a reason for this, as will appear by-and-by. While this question was pending, we could see plainly their every act through the chinks of the pen, as a monstrous fire was in their midst, and hear every word, though none of us understood their language but our captain, whose countenance we could perceive, by the light of the fire, from time to time changing with the alternate passions of hope and of fear, while the sweat ran down his face from the mere labor of his mind, although it was a cold night. And added to this, the sentry, Beacraft, who was set as a guard, would every now and then cry out to us, "You will all be in *hell* before morning." But there we were, tied neck and heels, or we would have beat the pen about his head. Our captain whispered to us that his word was doubted by the Indians and Tories, who were for killing us, and proceeding without delay to Schoharie. At length the morning came, when Brant and his associate chiefs, five in number, ordered that Harper be brought before them. Here the question was renewed by Brant, who said, "We are suspicious that you have lied to us;" at the same time he sternly looked Harper in the face, to see if a muscle moved with fear or prevarication. To which our captain answered with a smile, expressive of confidence and scorn, and at the same time descriptive of the most sincere and unvarying honesty, that every word which he had spoken, respecting the arrival of troops at Schoharie, was wholly *true*. His answer was believed, at which moment not only their own lives were saved, but also those of hundreds of men, with helpless women and children, who have not known to this day, except the few to whom the story has been told, that so great a Providence stepped in between them and servitude, torture and death.

It was extremely mortifying to Brant to be compelled to relinquish, at the very moment when he was ready to grasp the utmost of his wish, in the glory and riches he would have acquired in the completion of his enterprise.

He had fed the hopes of his associate chiefs, warriors and Tories with the same prospects; having calculated, from information long before received, that Schoharie was in a defenseless state, and dreaded no evil, which rendered it extremely difficult to restrain them from killing the prisoners out of mere fury at the disappointment. A few moments of consultation ensued, when the rest were ordered out of the pen. Brant now disclosed the whole plan of the expedition in English, expressing his regret at its failure, stating that he and the other chiefs had, with difficulty, saved them from being scalped, and that he did not wish to kill them in cold blood now, they had been together a day and a night, and if they chose to go with him to Niagara as captives of war, they might, but if they failed on the way through fatigue or want of food, they must not expect to live, as their scalps were as good as their bodies.

They had no provisions with them, neither had they eat anything as yet while we had been their prisoners, except what they had found in our sap-bush, which they had at first devoured with the rapacity of cannibals. We now took up our line of march, with our arms strongly pinioned, our shoulders sorely pressed with enormous packs, our hearts bleeding at the dreadful journey before us, and the servitude we were exposed to undergo among the Indians, or if *bought* by the British, imprisoned by land and sea, was our certain fate, at least till the end of the war, if we even survived the journey.

The snow was then more than three feet deep, and being soft rendered it impossible for us prisoners to travel, as we had no snow-shoes, but the Indians had; a part, therefore, of them went before us and a part behind, all in Indian file, so by keeping their tracks we were enabled to go on, but if we happened to fall down, the Indians would cry out, "*Waugh Bostona*." We had traveled about ten or twelve miles, when we came to a grist-mill, situated on the Delaware, the owner of which welcomed this band of infernals, and gave them such refreshments as were in his power, but to us, poor prisoners, he gave nothing, while we were made to sit apart on a log beside the road. I shall never forget the cruelty of three or four daughters of this man, whose name I forbear to mention out of

pity to his descendants. These girls insisted that they had better kill us there, for if by any means we should ever get back, their own lives would be taken by the Whigs; their father also observed to Brant that he had better have taken more scalps and less prisoners. When we were ready to proceed again, the miller gave Brant about three bushels of shelled corn, which was divided into eleven different parts and put upon our backs, already too heavily burdened. This corn was all the whole body of Indians and ourselves had to subsist upon from there to Niagara, except that which accidentally fell in our way, a distance of more than three hundred miles, entirely a wilderness. From this mill we traveled directly down the river; we had not, however, gone many miles, when we met a man who was a Tory, well-known to Brant, by name Samuel Clockstone, who seeing us, the prisoners, was surprised, as he knew us; when Brant related to him his adventure, and how he had been defeated by the account Captain Harper had given of the troops lately arrived at Schoharie. "Troops," said Clockstone, "there are no troops at that place, you may rely upon it, Captain Brant, I have heard of none." In a moment the *snake* eyes of Brant flashed murder, and running to Harper, he said, in a voice of unrestrained fury, his hatchet vibrating about his head like the tongue of a viper, "How come you to lie to me so?" When Harper, turning to the Tory, said, "You know, Mr. Clockstone, I have been there but four days since; you know since our party was stationed at the head of the river, at the sap-bush, that I have been once to the forts alone, and there were troops, as I have stated, and if Captain Brant disbelieves it, he does it at his peril." That Harper had been there happened to be true, which the Tory happened to know, when he replied, "Yes, I know it." All the while Brant had glared intensely on the countenance of Harper, if possible to discover some misgivings there, but all was firm and fair; when he again believed him, and resumed his march.

There was a very aged man by the name of Brown, who had not gone off with the rest of the families who had fled the country. This miserable old man, with two grandsons, mere lads, were taken by Brant's party, and compelled

to go prisoners with us. The day after our meeting with the Tory, as above described, this old man, who was entirely bald from age, became too weary to keep up with the rest, and requested that he might be permitted to return, and alleged as a reason, that he was too old to take part in the war, and, therefore, could do the King's cause no harm. At this request, instead of answering him, a halt was made, and the old man's pack taken from him, when he spoke in a low voice to his grandsons, saying that he should see them no more, for they were going to kill him; this he knew, being acquainted with the manners of the Indians. He was now taken to the rear of the party, and left in the care of an Indian, whose face was painted entirely *black*, as a token of his office, which was to kill and scalp any of the prisoners who might give out on the way. In a short time the Indian came on again, with the bald scalp of the old man dangling at the end of his gun, hitched in between the ramrod and muzzle, this he often flapped in the boys' faces on the journey. The place at which this was done was just on the point of a mountain, not far from opposite where Judge Foot used to live, on the Delaware, below Delhi. There he was left, and doubtless devoured by wild animals. Human bones were afterwards found on that part of the mountain.

We pursued our way down the Delaware till we came to the Cook House, suffering very much, night and day, from the tightness of the cords with which our arms were bound. From this place we crossed through the wilderness, over hills and mountains, the most difficult to be conceived of, till we came to a place called Ochquago, on the Susquehanna river, which had been an Indian settlement before the war. Here they constructed several rafts out of old logs, which they fastened together with witles and poles passing crosswise, on which, after untying us, we were placed, themselves managing to steer. These soon floated us down as far as the mouth of the Chemung river, where we disembarked and were again tied, taking up our line of march for the Genesee country. The Indians, we found, were more capable of sustaining fatigue than we were and easily out-traveled us, which circumstance would have led

to the loss of our lives had not a singular Providence interfered to save us! This was the indisposition of Brant, who every other day for a considerable time fell sick, so that the party were compelled to wait for him, this gave an opportunity for us to rest ourselves. Brant's sickness was an attack of the fever and ague, which he checked by the use of a preparation from the rattlesnake. The rattlesnake he caught on the side of a hill facing to the south, on which the sun shone, and had melted away the snow from the mouth of the den of those serpents, where it appears one had crawled out, being invited by the warmth.

The reader will also observe that about a fortnight had now elapsed from the time of our captivity, so that the season was farther advanced, and added to this, the snow is sooner melted on the Chemung, in Pennsylvania, being farther south by about three degrees than the head of the Delaware, yet in places even there, there was snow on the ground, and in the woods it was still deep. Of this snake he made a soup, which operated as a cure to the attack of the ague. The reader will remember the three bushels of corn given at the mill; this they fairly and equally divided among us all, which amounted to two handsful a day, and that none should have more or less than another while it lasted, the corn was counted as we received them; in this respect Brant was just and kind. This corn we were allowed to boil in their kettles when the Indians had finished theirs; we generally contrived to pound it before we boiled it, as we had found a mortar at a deserted wigwam left by the Indians the year before, who had been driven away by General Sullivan. While in the neighborhood of what is now called Tioga Point, we but narrowly escaped every man of us being butchered on the spot; a miracle, as it were, saved us. The cause was as follows: At this place, when Brant was on his way down the Chemung on this same expedition, but a few days before, he had detached eleven Indians from his company to pass through the woods from Tioga Point to a place called the Minisink. It was known to Brant that at this place were a few families, where it was supposed several prisoners might be made or scalps taken, which at Niagara

would fetch them eight dollars a piece. This was the great stimulus by which the Indians in the Revolution were incited by *Butler*, the British agent, to perpetrate so many horrid murders upon women, children, and helpless old age in this region of country.

This party made their way to the Minisink, where, lying concealed in the woods, they managed to get into their possession, one after another, five lusty men, and had brought them as far as to the east side of the Susquehanna opposite Tioga Point. Here they encamped for the night, intending in the morning to construct a raft in order to float themselves over the river, as they had done on their way towards the Minisink a few days before, and so pursue their way up the Chemung which course was the great thoroughfare of the Indians from the Susquehanna country to that of the Genesee. Meanwhile the eleven Indians lay fast asleep being greatly fatigued and apprehending no danger, as the prisoners were securely bound and sleeping soundly, as the Indians supposed, before they laid themselves down; but as the soul of one man, the prisoners were ever watching some opportunity to escape. But this was not possible even if they could have made their escape, unless they should first have effected the death of the whole of the party of Indians. This object therefore was their constant aim. This night, by some means unknown, one of the prisoners got loose, doubtless either by gnawing off his cord or by chafing it in two as he lay upon it, or during the day had managed to hitch it as often as he could against the snags of the trees till it had become fretted and weak in some place, so that at last he got it in two. When this was effected, he silently cut the cords of his fellows, when each man took a hatchet, and in a moment nine of them received their blades to their handles in their brains; but the sound of the blows in cutting through the bones of their heads awakened the other two, who sprung upon their feet as quick as thought, when one of them, as he fled, received the blade of a hatchet between his shoulders, which, however, did not kill him nor prevent his escape, yet he was terribly wounded.

These men who had so heroically made their escape, returned, as was supposed, to their

homes to relate to their families and posterity the perils of that dreadful night. After they had gone, the two Indians returned to the spot where lay their ruthless but unfortunate companions, fast-locked, not only in the sleep of the night, but that of death, never more to torment the ear of civilized life with the death yell of their sepulchral throats.

They took from the feet of their slaughtered friends their mocassins, nine pair in number, and then constructed a raft on which they crossed the river, and had proceeded little way up the Chemung where they had built a hut, and the well Indian was endeavoring to cure his wounded companion.

When the whooping of the party of Indians to whom we were prisoners struck their ear, he gave the *death yell*, which hung on the dull air as the scream of a demon reverberating in doleful echoes up and down the stream; at which the whole body made a halt and stood in mute astonishment, not knowing what this could mean; when directly the two Indians made their appearance, exhibiting the nine pair of mocassins, and relating in the Indian tongue, which Harper understood, the death of their companions. In a moment, as if transformed to devils, they threw themselves into a great circle around us, exhibiting the most horrid gestures, gnashing their teeth like a gang of wolves ready to devour, brandishing their tomahawks over us, as so many arrows of death. But here let it be spoken, to the praise of Divine Providence, at the moment when we had given ourselves up as lost, the very Indian, who was a chief, and had been the only one of the eleven who had escaped unhurt, threw himself into the midst of the ring, and with a shake of his hand gave the signal of silence, when he plead our cause by simply saying, "These are not the men who killed our friends, and to take the life of the innocent in cold blood, *cannot* be right." As it happened, this Indian knew us all, for he had lived about Schoharie before the war, and was known as an inoffensive and kind-hearted native, but when the war came on, had seen fit to join the British Indians; his words had the desired effect, arrested the mind of Brant, and soothed to composure the terrific

storm that a moment before had threatened to destroy us.

Again we resumed our course, bearing with considerable more patience and fortitude the anguish of our sufferings, than it is likely we should have done had our lives not been preserved from a greater calamity just described. We soon came to Newtown, where we were nearly at the point of starvation, Indians and all, as we had nothing to eat except a handful or two of corn a day; and what the end would have been is not hard to foresee, had not the amazing number of wolf tracks remaining, directed us to the carcass of a dead horse. The poor brute had been left to take care of itself the summer before by Sullivan, in his march to the Indian country, being unfit for further service as a pack-horse. Here, on the commons of nature, which during the summer and fall, it is likely, produced an abundance of pasturage, but when winter came on and rendered it impossible for the poor worn-out animal to take care of itself, death came to its relief. That it had lived till the winter had become severe, was evident from its not being in the least degree putrescent, but was completely frozen, it having been buried in the snow during the winter.

The wolves had torn and gnawed the upper side quite away, but not being able to turn the carcass over it was sound and entire on the under side. This we seized upon, rejoicing as at the finding of a hidden treasure! It was instantly cut to pieces, bones, head and hoofs, and equally divided among the whole. Fires were built, at which we roasted and eat, without salt, each his own share, with the highest degree of satisfaction.

Near this place we found the Painted Post, which is now known over the whole continent, to those conversant with the early history of our country; the origin of which was as follows: Whether it was in the Revolution or in the Dunmore battles with the Indians, which commenced in Virginia, or in the French war, I do not know, an Indian chief on this spot had been victorious in battle, killed and taken prisoners to the number of sixty. This event he celebrated by causing a tree to be taken from the forest and hewed four square, painted red, and the number he killed, which was twenty-eight, repre-

sented across the post in black paint, without any heads, but those he took prisoners, which were thirty, were represented with heads on, in black paint, as the others. This post he erected and thus handed down to posterity an account that here a battle was fought, but by whom, and who the sufferers were is covered in darkness, except that it was between the whites and Indians.

The post will probably continue as long as the country shall remain inhabited, as the citizens heretofore have uniformly replaced it with a new one exactly like the original, whenever it has become decayed. Nothing more of note happened to us till we came to the Genesee river, except a continued state of suffering. We passed along between the Chemung and the head of the lakes Cayuga and Seneca, leaving the route of Sullivan, and went over the mountains farther north. These mountains, as they were very steep and high, covered with brush, and our bodies being weak and emaciated, were almost insurmountable, but at length we reached the top of the last and highest, which overlooks immeasurable wilds, the ancient abode of men and nations unknown, whose history is written only in the dust. Here we halted to rest, when the Tory Beacraft took it in his head to boast of what he had done in the way of murder since the war began. He said that he and others had killed some of the inhabitants of Schoharie, and that among them was the family of one Vroman. These he said they soon despatched, except a boy of about fourteen years of age, who fled across the flat toward the Schoharie river. "I took after the lad," said the Tory, "and although he ran like a spirit, I soon overtook him, and putting my hand under his chin laid him back on my thigh, though he struggled hard, cut his throat, scalped him, and hung the body across the fence." This made my blood run cold; vengeance boiled through every vein, but we dare not say a word to provoke our enemies, as it would be useless. This man, however, got his due, in a measure, after the war was over, which will be related at the end of this account.

Another of them, by the name of Barney Cane, boasted that he had killed one, Major Hopkins, on Dimon Island, in Lake George.

"A party of pleasure," as he stated, "had gone to this Island on a sailing excursion, and having spent more time than they were aware of before they were ready to return, concluded to encamp and remain all night, as it would be impossible for them to return to the fort. From the shore where we lay hid, it was easy to watch their motions; and perceiving their defenseless situation, as soon as it was dark, we set off for the Island, where we found them asleep by their fire, and discharging our guns among them, several were killed, among them was one woman who had a suckling child, which was not hurt. This we put to the breast of its dead mother, and so we left it. * * * *

* * * * But Major Hopkins was only wounded, his thigh-bone being broken; he started from his sleep to a stooping posture, when I struck him," said Barney Cane, "with the butt of my gun on the side of his head, he fell over, but caught on one hand; I then knocked him the other way, when he caught with the other hand; a third blow I laid him dead. These were all scalped except the infant. In the morning, a party from the fort went and brought away the dead, together with one they found alive, although he was scalped, and the babe, which was hanging and sobbing at the bosom of its lifeless mother."

Having rested ourselves, and our tantalizing companions having finished the stories of their *infamy*, we descended the mountain towards the Genesee, which we came in sight of the next day about two o'clock. Here we were met by a small party of natives, who had come to the flats of the Genesee for the purpose of *corn planting*, as soon as the waters of the river should fall sufficiently to drain the ground of its water. These Indians had with them a very beautiful horse which Brant directed to be cut to pieces in a moment, and divided equally without dressing or any such fashionable delay, which was done, no part of the animal whatever being suffered to be lost. There fell to each man of the company but a small piece, which we roasted, using the *white* ashes of our fires as salt, which gave it a delicious relish; this Brant himself showed us how to do. On these flats were found infinite quantities of ground nuts, a root in form and size about

equal to a musket ball, which, being roasted, became exceedingly mealy and sweet. These, together with our new acquisition of horse-flesh, formed a delicious repast.

From this place Brant sent a runner to Niagara, a distance of about eighty miles, in order to inform the garrison of his approach, and of the number of prisoners he had, their names and quality. This was a most humane act of Brant, and by this means he effected the removal of all the Indian warriors in the two camps contiguous to the fort. Brant was in possession of a secret respecting Harper, which he had carefully concealed in his own breast during the whole journey, and, probably, in the very first instance at the time when he discovered that Harper was his prisoner, operated by influencing him, if possible, in saving his life. This secret consisted in a knowledge that there was then in the fort a British officer who had married a niece of Harper. Jane More, whose mother was a sister of Captain Harper. This girl, together with the mother and a sister, had been captured at the massacre of Cherry Valley and taken to Niagara. This information was conveyed by means of the runner to the husband of Jane More, Captain Powell, who, when the girl was first brought by Butler and his Indians, a prisoner to the fort, loved, courted and honorably married. Now if Powell wished to save the life of his wife's uncle he had the opportunity, by doing as Brant had suggested, that was, to send the warriors of both camps down the lake to the nine-mile landing, with the expectation of meeting Brant there, whose prisoners would be given into their hands to be dealt with as the genius of their natures' customs might suggest. Accordingly, Powell told his wife that her uncle was among the prisoners of Brant, who had sent him word, and that the warriors *must* be sent away; to whom he gave a quantity of rum, as they thought, to aid in the celebration of their infernal pow-wows at the nine-mile landing, having obtained the consent of his superior, Colonel Butler, to do so.

Brant had concealed, from both his Indians and Tories, as well as from the prisoners, that Powell, at the fort, was Harper's relative, or that he had made the above arrangement.

The reader may probably wish to know *why*

the warriors in those two camps *must* be sent away, in order to save the lives of the prisoners. All persons acquainted with Indian customs in time of war, know very well that the unhappy wretch who falls into their hands at such a time, is compelled to run what is called the gauntlet, between two rows of Indians, composed of warriors, old men, women and children, who, as the prisoner flies between them, if possible, to reach a certain point assigned, called a council-house, or a fort, receives from every one who can reach him, a blow with the fist, club, hatchet or knife, and even wadding fired into their bodies, so that they generally die with their wounds before they reach the appointed place, though they struggle with all the violence of hope and despair. We had now, on the fourth day after the runner had been sent, arrived within two miles of Niagara, when the Tories began to tell us the danger we were soon to be exposed to, in passing those two Indian encampments, which, till then, we knew nothing of; this difficulty they were careful to describe in the most critical manner, so that every step, although so near our journey's end, when we hoped at least to have our hunger satisfied, was as the steps of the wretch condemned to die. But on coming to the first encampment what was our surprise and joy at finding nothing there capable of injuring us but a few old women and children, who had indeed formed themselves as before described. However, one old squaw coming up in a very friendly manner saluted me by saying, "Poor shild, poor shild," when she gave me a blow, which, as I was tired, could not be parried, that nearly split my head in two. Directly we came to the second encampment, which was supposed to be more dangerous, as the most bloody warriors were, from choice, situated nearest the fort; but here, through the policy of Powell, a whole regiment of British troops were thrown into two parallel lines, extending through the whole encampment, to protect us, as here were many young lads of the natives quite able, if opportunity was given them, to hack and club us to death before we reached the fort. But now the desired fort, although it was to be our prison-house, was seen through the opening woods. I had come to within about five rods of the gate-

way, still agonizing under the effects of the old squaw's blow, when a young savage, about twelve years old, came running with a hatchet in his hand directly up to me, and seizing hold of the *petunip* line, or cord, by which I was tied, twitched me around so that we faced each other, when he gave me a blow between my eyes on the forehead that nearly dropped me dead, as I was weak and faint; the blood spouted out at a fearful rate, when a soldier snatched the little demon's hatchet and flung it into the lake. Whether Brant was awarded over and above the eight dollars, (which was the stipulated price per head), for Harper, or not, I cannot tell; but as was most natural to suppose, there was on the part of himself and niece great joy on so unexpectedly falling in with friends and relatives in the midst of enemies, and on the part of Powell respect and kindness was shown to Harper on account of the lovely Jane More, who had become a talisman of peace between them.

We had scarcely arrived when we were brought to the presence of a number of British officers of the Crown, who blazed in all the glory of military habiliments, and among them as chief, was the bloated, insolent, unprincipled, cruel, infamous Butler, whose name will *stink* in the recollections of men to the latest page of American history; because it was he who directed, rewarded, and encouraged the operations of the Indians and Tories all along from Canada to the State of Delaware. This man commenced in a very abusive manner to question us respecting American affairs; and addressing me in particular, probably because he was nearer me than any of the rest, whether I did not think that by and by his Indians would compel a general surrender of the Yankees! I replied to him in as modest a manner as possible, not feeling in a mood of repartee, as the blood from the wound in my forehead still continued to trickle down my face, covering my vest and bosom with blood, that I did not wish to say anything about it nor to give offense to any one. But he would not excuse me; still insisting that I should say whether I did not think so; to which I firmly replied—feeling what blood and spirit there were yet left in me, to rouse a little—that if I

must answer him, it was to say No! and that he might as well think to empty the lake of its waters at a bucketful at a time, as to conquer the Yankees in that way. At which he burst out in a violent manner, calling me a *dam'd rebel*, for giving him such an insolent answer, and ordered me out of his sight; but here, when ready to sink to the floor, (not from anything the huge bulk of flesh had said to me, but from hunger, weariness, and the loss of blood,) a noble-hearted soldier interposed, saying to Butler, "The lad is not to blame, as you have compelled him to answer your question, which no doubt he has done according to the best of his judgment." "Here, poor fellow, take this glass of wine and drink." Thus the matter ended.

We were now given over to the care of a woman, Nancy Bundy by name, who had been ordered to prepare us a soup, made of proper materials, who was not slow to relieve our distress as far as she dare, as she also was a prisoner. But in taking off the belt which I had worn around my body, as the manner of the Indians is, to keep the wind out of the stomach, it appeared that I was falling to pieces, so strange was the sensation, that I was ready to disown my own body had I not been convinced by my other senses that there was no mistake.

I will just give the reader a short account of this woman, as I received it from herself. She stated that herself, husband, and two children were captured at the massacre of Wyoming, by Butler's Indians and Tories, and brought to the Genesee country, then entirely inhabited by the natives. There she was parted from her husband, the Indians carrying him she knew not where, but to some other and distant tribe. She had not been long in the possession of the tribe after her husband was taken away, when the Indian who had taken her prisoner, addressed her, and was desirous of making her his wife; but she repulsed him, saying very imprudently she had one husband, and it would be unlawful to have more than one. This seemed to satisfy him, and she saw no more of him for a long time; but after a while he came back and renewed his suit, alleging that there were no objections to her marrying him as her

husband was dead, for, said he, I found where he was and I have killed him. She then told him if he had killed her husband he might kill her also, for she would not marry a murderer. When he saw she was resolute and that his person was hateful in her sight, he took and tied her, and brought her to this place and sold her for eight dollars.

From this prison, after being sold to the British garrison for eight dollars a head, we were sent across the lake to Carleton Island, from this place down to the Cedars; from the Cedars we were transported from place to place, till at length we were permanently lodged in the prison at Chambly. Here we were put in irons, and remained two years, suffering everything but death, for want of clothes, fire, food, medicine, exercise and pure air. At length from the weight and inconvenience of my irons I became so weak that I could not rise from the floor, when my fellow-sufferer Thorp, who was not as badly off as myself, used to help me up.

The physician appointed to have the care of the prisoners, whose name was Pendergrass, paid but little attention to his charge, seldom visiting us, but never examining closely into our situation; consequently a description of my horrid condition would afflict the reader, on which account I forbear it. At length however this physician was removed and another put in his place, of entirely contrary character; he was humane, inquisitive, industrious and skillful.

When he came first to that part of the prison where myself and about twenty others were confined, the captain of the fort came with him, when the doctor proceeded to examine us, one by one, instead of giving us a general look only, as the other had done. The place where I sat was quite in the corner, I had chosen it because it was the darkest and served to hide me from observation more than any other part of the room. I had contrived to get into my possession an old rug of some sort which partly hid my naked limbs; this I kept over my lap in the best possible manner.

After a while it became my turn to be examined, when he said: "Well my lad what is the matter of you?" From shame and fear lest he would witness the loathsome predica-

ment which I was in, I said, "Nothing sir," "Well then," said he "get up." "I cannot, sir, said I." "He then took the end of his cane and putting it under the blanket that was partly over me, threw it one side, and a spectacle of human suffering presented itself, such as he had not dreamed of seeing. I had fixed my eyes steadily on his face, to see if aught of pity moved his breast, which I knew I could trace in his countenance, if any appeared. He turned pale; a frown gathered on his brow, the curl of his lip denoted wrath; when he turned round to the captain of the fort, whose name was Steel, and looking steadily at him said, in a voice of thunder, "You infamous villain, in the name of God, are you murdering people alive *here!* send for your provost sergeant in a moment, and knock off that *poor fellow's* spare shackles, or I will *smash* you in a moment!" Oh, this language was balm to my wounds; was oil to my bleeding heart; it was the voice of sympathy, of determined mercy, and immediate relief. I had a soldier's heart, which shrunk not; a fountain of tears I had not in the hour of battle; but now they rushed out again, as if anxious to behold the man who, by his goodness had drawn them from their deep seclusion.

An entire change of situation now took place; our health was recovered, which rendered my imprisonment quite tolerable. From this place after a while we were sent to Rebel Island, or Cutodelack or Cutthroat Island, where we remained a year, when peace was declared.

We were now sent to Quebec and put on board a cartel ship, and sent round to Boston; though before we reached that place we were driven out to sea in a storm and nearly shipwrecked, suffering exceedingly; but at last arrived at the desired haven where I once more set foot on my native land and rejoice that it was a land of liberty and Independence. As fast as possible we made the best of our way to Old Schoharie, which was our home, after an absence of three years, during which I suffered much, as well as my companions, for the love of my country; which under the blessings of Heaven I have enjoyed these many years, feeling that it is a recompense in full measure.

May He, who never lost a battle perpetuate

the blessing to those who have it, to the latest era of time.

Supposed Silver Mine.—Years before the Revolution, the Indians procured an ore at some point in Blenheim that resembled silver, and as soon as peace was proclaimed, efforts were made by the speculative to find the vein that the Indians had kept a secret. After several ineffectual attempts, John and Wilhelmus Bouck procured the services of one Casper Bertram, a German mineralogist, or, as called at that time a "chemist," whose superstition was greater than his ability. After searching for several years he concluded the precious ore lay in large deposits upon the farm of Nicholas Becker.

Accordingly, the Boucks drew up the following:—

"Articles of Agreement made, concluded and signed the seventeenth Day of December in the year of our Lord one Thousand Eight Hundred and Four Between Nicholas Becker and Catharine his wife of the town of Blenheim in the county of Schoharie farmers of the first part and John Bauch—Wilhelmus Bauch and Casper Bertram of the town of Schoharie and county aforesaid of the other part Witnesseth that whereas it is probable from the situation and appearance that there is ore in the farm of the Party of the first part where he now resides on the east side of the Schoharie creek or river Southerly from his Dwelling house, and whereas the Parties of the second part having an inclination to Dig and work said ore or mine have together with the parties of the first part made the following mutual arrangements:

"Firstly It is agreed between both Parties that the said Parties of the Second Part shall have full power and authority to Dig the said ore or mine and take out the ore of whatever nature, forever, and further that the said Parties of the second part shall have full power and authority in their digging to follow the said ore or ores in such direction as will be the most advisable and best advantageous for both Parties and also that the Parties of the Second part shall have the privilege to go to and return from the said mine with any team or carriage to Car-

ry off their ores, and to carry to the mine what shall be required towards the mine and it is further agreed between both parties, that the party of the first part shall furnish all the wood necessary for the mine if there is any required for the same, and it is further agreed that the second party shall work or dig the mine at their own expense and charges, and that the party of the first part shall have an equal fourth part of all the ore which shall be dug out of said mine, and the party of the second part shall have three equal third parts of the said ore so dug by the parties of the second part out of said mine, and it is further agreed by both parties, that the parties of the second part and their Heirs shall have a lawful right to enjoy the above Preveledges for such term of time as the Parties of the second part shall think Proper to quit the same, or untill such time that there is no more ore to be found in said farm or mine. And for the more absolute Performance and conformance of the above articles, and to render the same more effectual in the law, Both Parties Do respectfully bind themselves, their Heirs, Executors and Administrators and assignees for the above Permitted times or Period.

"In witness whereof Both Parties to these Presents have hereunto Interchangeably set their Hands and seals the Day and year first above written.

"Signed by Nicholas Becker and Catharine, his wife, John Bouck and Casper Berthram, in the presence of Elias Holladay and M. N. Simmons, Jun."

Before seeking for the ore, Bertram had a written oath or pledge which he took himself and required those who assisted to do the same, if not, their efforts would prove futile. The cross that follows the jargon is to be understood as the number of times each one was to cross themselves over the heart with the forefinger of the right hand, after walking over the ground with an apple-tree branch, which was supposed to be able to point to the spot, by order of the "Spirit" that answered the charge, which was as follows:—

"I charge you to reveal to me what I ask you in the name of the three holy Kings, Casper,

Besler, and Melchior, who found the infant Christ in the East. † † †

The jargon of course, was repeated in German, and according to tradition, was effectual in finding treasures.

The original of the oath was obtained and preserved by John G. Gebhard, Jr., as was also the articles of agreement, to whom we are indebted for the privilege of a copy. It was thought copper ore was obtained, but before the mines began to work in earnest, an accident happened to Bertram, that closed his life.

One of the Beckers was anxious to cut a certain piece of grass, and procured several hands to assist—perhaps made a "bee" to cut it—and Bertram was one of the number, and in mowing ahead of one of the laborers, he was cut in the leg by him, and bled to death.

It is said he was buried in one corner of the lot, and with him vanished the silver mines, but not the idea of the treasure being hid in large quantities within the rocks, as we still find those who believe in an inexhaustible mine beneath the giant hills, that will some day enrich the country.

War of 1812.—When the war of 1812 was proclaimed this part of the County was aroused to a sense of patriotism that culminated in twenty-five entering the service. The first that went belonged to the regiment of militia and every third one was drawn. Afterwards an enlisting station was made at Schoharie village, under Major Diedrick Van Vetchten. Daniel Hager, grandson of Captain Jacob Hager was a captain in the militia service and was in the engagements at Sackett's Harbor and Plattsburgh, as was also Captain Philip Bartholomew in the same regiment, two men of firm adherence to country, as were their grandfathers before them.

Bartholomew Family.—John Bartholomew and his wife, Dorothy, early purchased a tract of land near the Charlotte, in the present county of Otsego, and raised a large family. When the Revolution commenced, they sought safety in the Schoharie valley and proved to be staunch patriots.

There were seventeen children, we are told, by one of the family, (G. W. Bartholomew, now of Austin, Texas,) and two of them at least settled in Schoharie County, John and Philip. The children of Philip settled at Fultonham, Gilboa and Middleburgh, while those of John were to be found in this town, as well as those of Middleburgh.

The progenitors of this family came from Holland and settled in Germantown, Penn., about the year 1740, and came from there to the Charlotte in 1770.

One of the sons, Tewalt, was with the party taken prisoners near Harpersfield, while making sugar, in the spring of 1780, as stated in General Patchin's manuscript. He returned to Schoharie at the close of the war, and for several years lived near the Hagers.

Jacob Sutherland.—Among the notable residents of this town was Jacob Sutherland, who was a son-in-law of Chancellor John Lansing, an owner of land lying in the town. In 1820 he was appointed one of the delegates to the constitutional convention, and in debate proved a very sound reasoner and intelligent debater. During that time he was District Attorney for the United States District Court, and in 1823 was elected State Senator, but did not take his seat, as he received the appointment of Puisne Justice, in the place of Joseph C. Yates, who resigned when elected Governor. Mr. Sutherland removed to Geneva, Ontario county, in the district in which he served. He afterwards removed to Albany and resigned the office of Judge, in January, 1836, and was appointed Clerk of the Court, which position we think he held at the time of his death, which occurred in May, 1845, at the age of fifty-eight. He resided upon the farm now occupied by O. J. Spring, and lived in princely style for those days, and was much respected by his townsmen.

His debates upon the Elective Franchise and Appointing Power, the two subjects that caused the warmest discussion that was held in the constitutional convention, were ingenious and forcible, displaying true Democratic principles, and oratorical reasoning with fearless expression.

He was born in Stanford, Dutchess County, and educated for the bar, for which he was well

fitted intellectually, and being connected with the best legal families of the day, and men of political influence, he was pushed along to prominence and usefulness, while yet a young man, through appointments much, we are told, against his natural retiring disposition.

The Mayham Family.—Among the early settlers of the town was Henry Maham, an emigrant from Ireland, who settled upon Blenheim Hill, when that section was a dense forest. He reared a family of six sons, William, John, Cornelius, Henry, Thomas and Stephen, who settled within the County, with the exception of Henry and Thomas, the former removing to Catskill and the latter to Niagara Falls. John changed the spelling of the name by writing it *Mayham*, while the other members of the family retain the original, *Maham*. The descendants of John adhere to the father's custom and are to be known by the adoption of the *y*. To this branch of the family belongs Stephen L. Mayham, now of Schoharie village, who has proved to be a representative man, and in whom the qualities of a scholar and honest man are to be found. A brother, Isaac F., long since dead, also, through self-culture, attained a prominence as a scholar and medical professional at Carlisle, but passed away many years ago in the bloom of a successful career. Stephen Mayham was the first man to lease a farm of Chancellor Lansing in the town, which he purchased at a nominal price during the anti-rent troubles of the 40's.

The Methodist Church of North Blenheim is the oldest religious organization in the town. It was organized by Reverends Heman and Nathan Bangs as early as 1800, and has been a prosperous society through its long existence. The early records are not accessible, or were not at least to us, which we regret exceedingly. Previous to 1828, meetings were held in private houses and the school-house; the preachers being what was called in those days "circuit riders." In that year the present church edifice was erected, which has been remodeled, and compares favorably with the County churches.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Eminence. This class was formed about the year 1830

and after the Reformed Church was built worshipped within it in union with that society. The Methodist class purchased the building, and in 1854 erected the present one. The pastors have been many since the organization, among whom were:

Paul R. Brown,
Osborn,
Hedstone,
Bloomer,
Carver,
Bangs,
Mitchell,
Stout,
Stewart,
Lakin,
Wright,
Couchman,
Decker,
Taylor,
Woodruff,
Martin,
Cornish,
White,
Tousley, the present incumbent.

Our informant, Mr. J. H. Burrows, to whom we are grateful for many favors, says, "The pastors thus named have officiated, but perhaps are not placed in their order." This society conducted a camp meeting near the Reformed Church in August, 1881, that was quite largely attended, and awoke a deep interest in the religious cause.

The Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of North Blenheim.—About the year 1830, a Presbyterian church was here formed in connection with that of Jefferson, but their numbers were few, and being unable to sustain the organization the elders of that society, P. I. Hager, Frederick Hager and N. Wyckoff, petitioned to the Classis of Schoharie on the 16th of February, 1852, "to be recognized by them as belonging to, and forming a part of their church." The Classis "deeming it expedient, resolved to comply with the petition," and proceeded to organize it as the "Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of North Blenheim." On the 22d of May following, "the officers were installed and ordained, whose names had

been before the church three successive Sabbaths, as no objections having been brought against them."

The officers were as follows:

Elders.

Adam H. Hager,
Nathan Wyckoff,
Frederick Hager,
Peter I. Hager.

Deacons.

Chauncey Vroman,
Munson Morehouse.

Clerk.

Chauncey Vroman.

Pastors.

1852 —J. H. VanWoert.
1853-1859—Wm. G. E. See.
1859-1867—T. L. Shafer.
1867-1870—Albertus Vanderwater.
1871 —W. L. James.
1872-1882—E. Miller.

Upon the formation of this church, the Breakabeen Church was connected in pastorate, and still remains so. The church edifice was built in 1853, and ordained in November of that year.

Blenheim Bridge.—On the 19th of April, 1828, an act was passed to incorporate the "Blenheim Bridge Company." The first charter expired 8th October, 1857, and was extended to thirty years by the Board of Supervisors, as by petition of George W. Martin and William Fink, as directors. It was built by a stock company. Hezekiah Dickerman was a shareholder, and purchased the remaining stock which he presented to his daughter, Mrs. Charles Waite, of Jefferson county, who, in 1871, sold to Mr. Moses Hubert, the present owner. It is the third toll bridge across the Schoharie, and, like the Esperance and Middleburgh bridges, has withstood devastating floods, and still stands firm.

Anti-Rent Troubles.—As stated in Chapter IV of this work, the only actual collision between the Anti-Renters and the sheriff occurred in this town. William Fink kept the hotel still

standing, where Sheriff Brown and Bouck were stopping, and the "Anti's" were encamped about four miles to the westward, upon lands owned by the Baldwin family, and known as "Baldwin's Heights." As stated, the officers were seized a short time after dark, and hurried to their encampment, where tar and feathers were in readiness to be presented to them without ceremony. A witness, without interest, (except curiosity,) informs us that a vote was taken by the painted chieftains whether to commit the act or not, which was vociferously carried. After parleying awhile another vote was taken, but did not receive a unanimous affirmative, and after voting several times, each with less vigor, it was decided to "refrain from the act." Just at that moment the horses hoofs struck a bridge near, and the party began to disperse, some hastily, others leisurely, until the captives were left alone, with the exception of the village boys, who had been attracted to the place to see the fun. The rent troubles soon died away much to the credit of the people, without bloodshed or waste of tar.

Fink's Tavern.—The old house still stands as a relic of other days, around which cluster many incidents that memory recalls to the old residents and travelers with fondness, yet not perhaps with pride. When the old house was in its business glory, the people, as a mass, presented a rougher edged morality than now, which perhaps produced more sensational pleasures, yet did but little, if anything, to elevate character, improve society, and advance enterprise. William Fink was a son of John Fink, who was found in the valley with the patriotic Hagers, Martins, and others of 1776, "daring for the right." When the war closed they settled here, and were followed by General Patchin, making a neighborhood of sturdy patriots, whose children with fondness repeat the many incidents that occurred along the valley one hundred years ago.

Robert, John, Casper, and George Martin, were sturdy pioneers, whose ire was easily aroused upon the appearance of a Tory. The three former were engaged in several scouting expeditions, and were officious patriots. The latter was the youngest and married a daughter of

General Patchin. Casper was the eldest, and was one of the left-handed men that laid the lash upon the back of Beacraft for his inhuman butcheries. We were told by Miss Catharine Hager that her father, the Judge, saw the body of the Vroman boy that Beacraft killed, together with those that were slain upon that day, as they lay in a wagon to be taken to the fort. They were terribly mutilated and covered with blood, presenting a sickening scene. In taking the scalp from the head an incision was made, usually a little below the crown, and the point of the knife forced into the skull, and by holding it obliquely, was easily guided to cut a circular piece, which varied in size, according to the "taste" of the butcher; usually the whole upper scalp was taken, which will cause that part covering the forehead to fall over the face, making the victim unrecognizable until raised to its position.

SUPERVISORS.

The first records of this town were lost or destroyed many years ago, and without doubt interesting matter forever lost.

- 1848—Stephen Badgley. ✓
- 1849—Chauncey Vroman.
- 1850—Alonzo C. Morehouse.
- 1851—Hezekiah Dickerman. ✓
- 1852—Thomas H. Knickerbocker.
- 1853—John Mayham.
- 1854—John Badgley. ✓
- 1855—Almerin M. Martin.
- 1856—Nathan S. Peaslee. ✓
- 1857—Mathew Fetter.
- 1858—Stephen L. Mayham.
- 1859—Stephen L. Mayham.
- 1860—Stephen L. Curtis.
- 1861—George Morehouse.
- 1862—John Badgley. ✓
- 1863—Silas Sweet.
- 1864—Giles S. Champlin.
- 1865—Silas Sweet.
- 1866—Silas Sweet.
- 1867—John Hager.
- 1868—Silas Sweet.
- 1869—Silas Sweet.
- 1870—Silas Sweet.
- 1871—Edwin Kingsley. ✓

- 1872—Silas Sweet.
- 1873—Silas Sweet.
- 1874—Silas Sweet.
- 1875—John Hager.
- 1876—John Hager.
- 1877—Edwin Kingsley. ✓
- 1878—George Granby.
- 1879—Edwin D. Hager.
- 1880—Edwin D. Hager.
- 1881—George Granby.
- 1882—J. Perry Champlin.

BOUNDARIES.

By a final act passed by the Legislature April 12, 1813, the bounds of the town were defined as follows:—

“All that part of said County of Schoharie beginning at a point in the south bounds of Middleburgh where the same is intersected by

the east line of Walter Butler's patent, north of the dwelling-house now or late of Christian Schaeffer, thence south along the said line of Walter Butler's patent to Smith's patent, thence south along the line of Smith's patent to Edward Clark's patent, thence along the east and south bounds of Edward Clark's patent to the middle of Schoharie creek, thence southerly through the middle of said creek to the south bounds of the County, thence westerly along the same to the town of Jefferson, thence along the easterly bounds of the town of Jefferson to the southerly bounds of the town of Middleburgh, thence easterly along the said southerly bounds to the place of beginning, shall be and continue by the name of Blenheim.”

Gilboa and a portion of Fulton was taken from the above, making the north of the former and the south of the latter, the south and north lines of Blenheim.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

BARENT KEYSER.

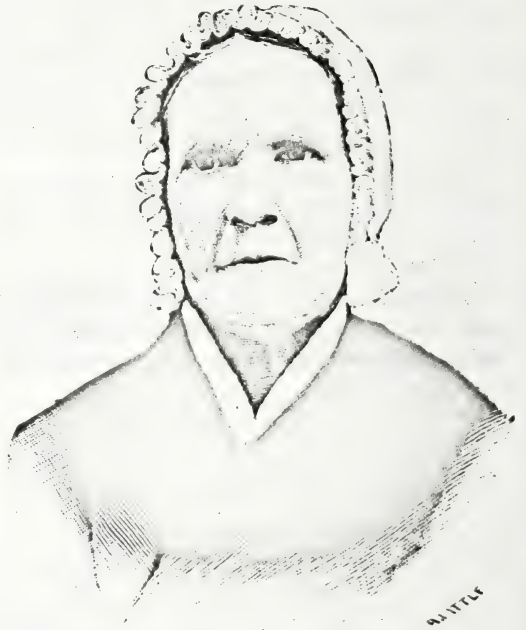
The Keyser and Schaeffer families came to the upper part of old Breakabeen some time after the year 1750. They became related by marriage, and were closely connected in many business transactions.

It is said the stream that forms a junction with the Schoharie near the present village, or modern Breakabeen, was named Keyser Kill, after the first settler, and grandfather of the subject of this sketch. That pioneer built a small grist-mill about the year 1765 at some point in this part of the valley, but the exact location is not definitely known. He also reared a family of boys who numbered at least

four, but through the agency of the Revolutionary war—diverse political opinions—and death by exposures, peculiar to those times, but two families were left in the States at the close of that war, Abram, as stated in Chapter XIII, and the family of the grandfather of our subject, Barent. One of the sons married Catharine, a daughter of Jacob Schaeffer, from whom she received a farm lying in the town of Sharon as her portion, to which the family removed about the year 1795. Barent, the son and third in name, was there born on the 5th day of August, 1799. In 1805 the family returned to the valley and settled upon the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. Keyser.

The family being large, Mr. Keyser "worked out" by the month among the farmers of the valley, and by following the frugal customs of the day he laid by a few hundred dollars, which

he was induced by his mother to pay upon debts against the homestead. He assumed the responsibility, and in a few years became the owner of the farm. It being mostly covered



[BARENT KEYSER AND WIFE.]

with heavy timber, it can be imagined an immense amount of labor was required to bring it to its present state of cultivation. But industry coupled with energy and frugality, made the great change, and gave to Mr. Keyser a competency and pleasant home to enjoy in his old age.

When his labor commenced upon the farm, he states that the woods abounded with deer, and it was not an unusual occurrence to see several in a herd grazing upon the side of the mountain, especially in the spring of the year, when they could find the low and tender bushes. During one winter in Mr. Keyser's time, the snow being very deep, with a heavy crust upon it, a neighbor of his killed over seventy with an ax. Bears were also numerous and plagued the farmers by killing their hogs

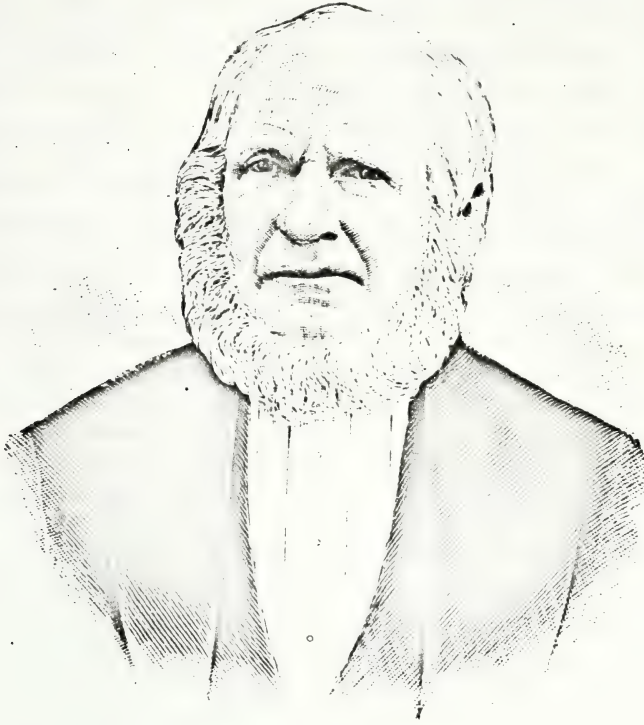
and sheep. It is indeed pleasing to those that experienced the trials and labors attending the pioneers of the hills of Blenheim to recount them over and over again, and contrast those days with the present, and draw from it lessons worthy to be heeded by their children and grandchildren who enjoy the fruits of their labors.

Mr. Keyser early married a sister of the present Hon. Yost Warner, of Warner Hill, who long years ago passed on to the spirit world, after assisting the husband in his early struggles against the thousand obstacles that were placed in his way, and rearing the following family of children: Mrs. John Mattice, Mrs. Henry Parslow, Mrs. Henry Smith, Mrs. Henry Keyser, George, John, and Jacob.

Being a hard-working man, Mr. Keyser has

never aspired to official honors, therefore never held any office beyond local trusts imposed upon him by the neighborhood of which he has so long been a respected member.

When a young man he served his time in the State Militia, and was detailed as guard at the execution of Casler in 1818, and also of Van Alstine the year following.



JACOB L. SHAFER.

Jacob L. Shafer is a descendant of Hendrick Schaeffer, one of the early settlers of Brunen "dorf." His grandfather, Jacob Schaeffer, as particularly stated in a preceding chapter of this work, settled upon the farm now owned by Mr. Shafer, several years previous to the Revolution. Here his family of five sons were born, some of whom Americanized the name from Schaeffer to Shaver or Shafer, according to their fancy. The sons were Hendricus, Garrett, Christian, Marcus, and Jacob. Hendricus, as will be seen, settled in Schoharie; Garrett retained the old place now belonging to Jacob L.; Christian located upon the opposite side

of the creek; and Marcus settled in Sharon. Jacob was a mute and remained single.

Jacob L. is a son of Garrett Shafer, and is the only male descendant in the town of Blenheim, excepting his sons. He was born there February 27, 1815, receiving but a meager education in his youth, yet strictly tutored in the school of honesty, industry and frugality.

Being of a reserved disposition, Mr. Shafer has never aspired above agricultural pursuits, but has kept steadily on, improving and adding to the inheritance derived from the father. Holding no official trust, but minor local ones, he has confined himself strictly to his own and

family affairs, yet never refusing proffers of aid to the unfortunate, nor embracing an opportunity for taking the advantage of anyone.

But few men are held in greater esteem by their townsmen than Mr. Shafer, for his adherence to Christian principles in every position in which he can be placed. His honors lie in his integrity, and not in his accumulations. His children are: Mrs. Daniel Bouck, Mrs. Hiram Kniskern, Gideon, Albert, Joseph A., Walter, Mary, William G. and Edward D. They have been carefully guided through their youth, in the life principles of their parents, and are now active and useful citizens.

CHAPTER XVII.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF SEWARD.

TOWN FORMED — CONTROVERSY BETWEEN WHIGS AND DEMOCRATS — PETER HYNDS — HENRY HAINES — FIRST GRIST MILL — CAPTURE OF THE HYNDS FAMILY — TREATMENT OF MARIA HYNDS — THE CRYSLER BROTHERS — INVASION OF SETHS HENRY — MURDER OF MICHAEL MERCKLEY — OF CATHARINE AND SEBASTIAN FRANCE — JOHN FRANCE MURDERED — CAPTURE OF HENRY AND HIS ESCAPE — MURDER OF YOUNG FOX — FREDERICK MERCKLEY'S FAMILY — FRANCE FAMILY — JOHN RICE — FIRST MEETING HOUSE — HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS — MURDER OF MR. AND MRS. HOFFMAN — TORIES' PASSION — OTTMAN BOYS TAKEN PRISONERS — RHINEBECK CHURCH — HENRY MOELLER AND OTHER PASTORS — FIRST SETTLERS OF RHINEBECK — GOLD MINE — STROBECK — POST OFFICE — HYNDSVILLE — SEWARD VALLEY — SEWARD STATION — GARDNERSVILLE — REV. PHILIP WEITING — COLONEL WILLETT'S RAIDS —

MILLS — BUSINESS INTERESTS — CHURCHES — DAIRY INTERESTS — PHYSICIANS — TOWN BONDS — SUPERVISORS — BOUNDARIES.

SEWARD was formed from Sharon, February 11, 1840. Several years previous to the formation of the town, considerable partisan feeling was displayed throughout Sharon, and in fact extended through the Western Assembly District of the County. The Whig element of Sharon was within the present limits of Seward, and they desired to run the line, so as to make a town of that political sentiment, while the Democrats run a line to make it Democratic. At last Peter Hynds, a thorough active Democrat, and a very influential man, headed the Democratic faction, and Jedediah Miller, of Cobleskill, the Whig. After repeated lines were run, and much loud speaking and many impressive arguments used, the factions met in the political field in the fall of 1838, running the two veterans for Member of Assembly. Miller was elected, but failed to get the desired enactment passed, after petitions and protests in abundance had been sent to the "Honorable Body." But Miller's interest was awakened, and not being discouraged, he still "insisted," and in 1840, while Charles Goodyear, of Schoharie, and Seymour Boughton, of Summit, were in the Assembly, the bill was passed. Miller, being consulted as to the name of the town, wrote upon a slip of paper "Seward," in honor of the then acting governor. During the year of that local political excitement, the United States Government and Mexico were having considerable trouble over Texas, and Hynds desired to call the new town after that disputed territory; a very appropriate name considering the controversy. About the time Hynds was defeated by Miller, the Texans and Mexicans under Santa Anna, had an engagement, in which the Mexican General was defeated. The opponents of Hynds gave to him the appellation of "Santa Anna," by which he was known until his death.

Peter Hynds was a very energetic man, in whom the people had great confidence. In

1829 he represented the Western District in the Assembly, and each year was honored by his townsmen with some office of trust. He was justice of the peace for a long series of years, and was the first supervisor elected in the town, which office he held for three terms, 1840, 1841 and 1851. On the 24th of August, 1864, he died at Hyndsville, in the sixty-fifth year of his age.

The earliest settlement in the town is supposed to have been in 1754. Judging by certain circumstances, as well as by a careful searching of old records, we believe that the Haines family were the first settlers in this town, although their settlement has been fixed at a later date by many. We may possibly be mistaken, still we are led to think they were the first, followed soon after by Sebastian France, William Spornhyer, Henry Fritz, William Hynds, and two brothers, Frederick and Michael Merckley. They were all Germans of the Palatine order, trusty, industrious and frugal.

We have examined letters, deeds and leases, given to different parties, (actual settlers), and find the earliest date to be 1757. One lease from Johannes Lawyer requires the lessee to make the first payment in 1764, thereby giving the tenant an opportunity of building and putting such other improvements upon the place as were necessary, without crippling them financially. There are a few places in town the titles of which were obtained from the Indians. The Haines farm is one. David H. Haines, the present occupant of the old homestead, is the great-grandchild of the first settler, Henry Haines. He was ever a friend to the Indians, and when his son, David, made free to side with the Colonists, the old man became very wroth, and upon making his will gave the other children the greater portion of his property. The first grist-mill in the town, and in the western part of the County, was built by him near Mr. David H. Haines' present farm buildings.

At the time of the Revolution these farmers were well-to-do, with comfortable frame-houses and spacious barns. They were visited three times by the Indians and Tories, who did not

fail to leave their marks of rapine and plunder, as well as blood and murder. Upon the 4th of July, 1780, a party of seven Indians, led by Adam Cryslar, surprised the family of William Hynds,* while at dinner. They made the whole family, eight in number, prisoners. After capturing four horses, upon the backs of which they placed Mrs. Hynds and the small children, together with the plunder taken from the house, the party moved off, and traveled that afternoon to Summit lake.

The Hynds family were gone three or four days before the remaining families of New Dorlach knew of their capture.

They were taken to Niagara, and were very well treated considering the brutality used upon many of their prisoners. Mrs. Hynds and four children died while in captivity. The remainder of the family returned after an absence of two years and one-half, excepting Mary, one of the oldest children, who was separated from the family at Niagara, and was not allowed to return for nearly three years after Mr. Hynds. Thus we see the farm, stock and everything was left behind, without anyone to take charge of them, and the family hurried off at the mercy of a treacherous foe, who, upon the impulse of the moment, were as likely to murder the whole family as to spare them.

One of the children, Maria, after became the wife of Peter Bouck, of Cobleskill, and mother-in-law of Abram L. Lawyer. She was about twelve years of age when taken, and was forced to travel on foot, at times in torture from cuts and bruises. She had long hair, and the savages, both white and red, often caught her by it, and flung her around as if she were inanimate. They often threatened to kill her,

*The Indians and Cryslar appeared at Michael Merckley's at dusk, and demanded quarters for the night. In the course of the evening, the party retired to a room and held a private council. Mr. Merckley told his family that he was fearful mischief was entertained, and told them to keep a watch over them. A Fritz girl and a daughter of Frederick Merckley were present, and they listened at the door, but were detected, and an Indian placed as sentinel. They held a council and asked of the girls if France was at home, being told that he was not, they retired for the night, and in the morning captured the Hynds family.

and took pains to torture the mind, if not the body. At one time, while in a chamber above a party of fiends, she heard them consulting in regard to taking her scalp, and was called down with the expectation of the act being committed, but owing to some cause or other she was allowed to return to her cheerless quarters.

The few families living in this part of New Dorlach were in friendship, regardless of their political differences, and with the exception of Philip Crysler and family, those that sided with the Crown remained quiet and did nothing to injure or molest their patriotic neighbors.

Settling as they did among the Indians, receiving lands and many favors from them, years before any political disturbances arose, it could not be expected otherwise than that a friendship should spring up between them, which they hardly dared to disturb, as they were entirely at the savages' mercy, and to cast the epithet of "Tory" upon many of them for their passiveness is hardly just. But the Crysler families—Adam, Philip, William and John—four brothers living in different sections of the County, were demons in human form, whose brutal acts outvied those of the uncivilized barbarian, and are a stain upon the history of civilized mankind. We are pleased however to make one exception in the Crysler family of one that was a true patriot, although but a mere lad. Philip owned the farm now occupied by Abram France, at Gardnersville, and when he came from Canada, (where he fled in 1777 with his brothers,) after his family, his son, George, refused to go, and left home to keep out of his father's way. He served the Colonists as a scout and remained firm and patriotic throughout the struggle. His father's farm was confiscated at the close of the war and should have been given to the son as a reward for his patriotism. He lived in the town of Sharon for many years, but at present we do not know of his whereabouts. After the murders committed by and at the instigation of his father, George seemed to loathe his parent.

A few years ago another son of Philip returned to regain the farm by legal means, but he was unsuccessful and returned to Canada.

Within the territory of Seward, many in-

cidents peculiar only to the Revolution, were enacted, a few of which we can speak of with a certainty, while around others there lies a haze which we have been unable to penetrate, and of them we will remain silent.

On the 18th of October following the capture of the Hynds' family, a party of eighteen Indians and three Tories, led by Seths Henry and Philip Crysler, made their appearance at Michael Merckley's house, which stood back of Austin Sexton's barn. This party, it was thought by Simms, arrived in the neighborhood a day or two previous, but kept themselves secreted. The day before their appearance, Colonel Johnson invaded the Schoharie valley with a body of cut-throats, among whom it was believed was Seths Henry, the notorious Schoharie redskin. Simms thinks the party that appeared at Merckley's waited in secret to know of Johnson's success and to be joined by Seths Henry. It might be possible that the whole party were with Johnson, as in numbers there is strength, and it was useless for them to be idle when possibly they would be wanted, and upon the retreat of Johnson they might have broken off and come up here to devastate and assist Crysler's family to Canada. However that may be, they appeared here on the 18th, and upon Mr. Merckley riding up towards his house on horseback, from a visit west, he was shot and scalped.

His niece, Catharine, a daughter of Frederick Merckley, had accompanied her uncle, but had loitered behind in company with Retsey or Elizabeth, a daughter of Sebastian France. Hearing the report of the gun, and perhaps anticipating danger, she rode on, leaving Miss France near her home. As Catharine neared her uncle's house, (having nearly a mile further to ride to reach her own home,) and seeing the lifeless body of her uncle, she urged her horse on up the knoll in front of the Merckley house, heedless of the Indians' orders for her to stop. Seths Henry standing by a stone—still to be seen—leveled his rifle and fired upon her, when she fell from the horse, mortally wounded.

Upon scalping her, Seths Henry said he would not have shot her if he had known she was such a pretty paleface. Such is the simple

story, as told by the near descendants of Miss Merckley, and the fact that she was soon to marry a true patriot—Christopher France, son of Sebastian—added much interest to the tragedy. Like the uncalled for murder of Jane McCrea, it stands upon record against the virtues of the “defender of the faith,” as another demoniacal act so frequently committed by the “defender’s” hired emissaries during the American Revolution.

After their murdering the old gentleman and Catharine, a portion of the party moved west to the residence of Sebastian France, a committee-man, which stood near the present site of William Denmon’s dwelling. Mrs. Denmon is a descendant of Sebastian France. Upon the Indians arriving here, the children only were at home, Mrs. France being at Mr. Haines, a short distance west, on a visit, and Mr. France hearing the report of the gun which fired upon Mr. and Miss Merckley, had taken his gun and entered the woods back of the house to learn the cause of the noise. He came very near meeting the party, but evading them and knowing he could not reach his own house without detection, he hurried off to Schoharie for assistance, a distance of at least sixteen miles.

Simms says the children were standing upon a stoop in front of the door, when the Indians came, and John, one of the oldest children, was struck on the head and felled by an Indian, near an out-door oven, which stood where Mr. Denmon’s ash-leach now stands. Henry, a younger brother, was taken in charge by another Indian, from whom he ran away, but was retaken. Mrs. France hearing the noise, returned home to find one of her boys weltering in his blood. The anguish that filled that mother’s heart no pencil can describe; yet those demons could look on and laugh at such scenes! Upon her entreating the Indians—who were helping themselves to her eatables—not to hurt the remaining children, they promised they would not. Henry watched his opportunity to escape, and when his captor’s head was turned, sprang out of the door and fled towards the woods.

The Indian that struck John immediately ran over to Hoffman’s, a short distance west, to dispatch him and his wife, but they hearing the

noise at France’s, sought safety in the woods, thereby cheating the Indian out of their scalps.

Philip Crysler’s wife afterwards stated that he was at home when the Indians appeared at the France place, and she advised him to put on his Indian dress and go over and save the France family, as she was under many obligations to them. Upon his reaching the place, the family was spared through his influence, but such fiends cannot be believed. It is very doubtful as to his being at home, as he was at the Merckley house but an hour before.

About the time Henry escaped the last time, the Indian that ran over to Hoffman’s returned, and upon finding that the boy had escaped and John still living, he cleft his skull with his tomahawk and took his scalp. The poor boy after receiving the first blow, vainly tried to follow the whispered advice of Henry, “to crawl under the oven,” as the loss of blood and stunning effect of the brute’s blow rendered him too weak to move. With what solicitude Henry and the remaining children must have looked upon their helpless brother! The party soon left, without doing farther damage to the family, but applied the torch to the barn and stacks, which soon reduced the labor of the season to ashes. Mrs. France carried the body of her son in the house, and with the remainder of the family concealed themselves in the woods.

The party proceeded to Haines’, who was a loyalist, and captured a few slaves, then turned their course back down the creek, to join the rest of the party that was left at Merckley’s. They burned the Michael Merckley buildings and William Spornhyer’s, which stood where George Winegard now resides, also Frederick Merckley’s, the father of Catharine, and passed over the hills to the south, with two Merckley girls and a boy (Martin), and a lad by the name of Fox, together with the slaves, as prisoners. The Fox boy cried to return, and was murdered upon the south side of the creek. The fact was not known at New Dorlach of the boy’s death until a long time after, when it was communicated by letter from the Merckley girls to their friends, although bones had been found, but to whom they belonged, was a mystery. Martin was taken to Canada, from whence he

returned at the close of the war, and became the father of our informant, David Merckley.

One son of Frederick Merckley was with Christopher France at the "lower fort," and two were under Captain Hager, and served with Arnold in 1777. Christian, a boy older than Martin, was at home, who, together with the parents was secreted in the woods when the savage party returned and burnt the buildings. They fled to the "lower fort" and from thence to the Hellebergh's, where they remained until the war closed, when they returned to their desolated homes and began life anew. One of the sons went to Canada and procured the brother, Martin, from a squaw that had adopted him as her son.

The accusation against Michael Merckley of being disloyal, we are far from being able to credit, and are led to believe it was an unjust charge, prompted by a neighbor's maliciousness after a period of over fifty years from the massacre. That the transaction, as related of the private counsel held at Merckley's house, is correct, we are convinced, and from the tenor of the charges made, only a very fibre-like proof can be gleaned of there being any truth in them. If Merckley advised the savage party to capture Hynds and family, who told of it? Would he? If the captors did, should they be sooner believed in that matter than in any other? Should such deceivers be believed at all? Did the patriots of that day put any weight in their words? Again, even the massacre of the old man, or the circumstances attending it, are cited as evidence of his friendly relations with the loyal cause!—"He discovered," says Simms, "the Indians about the door, but conscious of his kind feelings towards them, and zeal in the royal cause, while in the act of dismounting from his horse with perfect unconcern, he was shot down." Who could assume to know what he thought and felt? With his family in the house, surrounded by a blood-drinking band, and knowing by their past history, they would as soon thirst for their blood as any others, he could not, with the heart of a true father, feel unconcerned, and his riding up to the party when he might have evaded them by keeping back, was no evidence of his unconcern or zeal only for his family.

Had he, upon seeing the savages around the house, put spur to his horse and eluded them, he would have been branded as a coward, without a father's heart, and justly too. Many in those days, were unjustly accused.

There are families to-day, whose grandparents were connected with both sides in that contest, that accuse the Hynds family of being loyalists, and say they were pretended prisoners, not only the Hynds, but others who were true patriots. When we come to trace the origin of such charges, we invariably find them to be old family feuds that never die out in the old German breast. We find Michael Merckley to have been a man well advanced in years, a widower of considerable means, and lived a gentleman, without manual labor.

He was the scribe, or head man of the neighborhood, and took no active part in the struggle, was friendly to all, and an honored man. The family of Frederick Merckley were attached to the Colonial cause, and were active participants from the son John, entering service under Arnold to relieve Gansevoort, to the close of the struggle, yet they too, were accused of being friends to the Crown.

About the year 1790, a very energetic man by the name of John Rice, from New London county, Connecticut, settled upon the Michael Merckley farm, and after a few years built a "tavern" upon the site of Austin Sexton's residence. Here Old Sharon for many years held its elections, law suits, and did other public business. He built a grist-mill, and the place was known as "Rice's Mills." Rice was justice of the peace for many years, and represented the County in the legislature four terms, 1796, 1797, 1798 and 1832, and was the first member sent from Schoharie after the County was formed. It was entitled to but one member at that time, but in 1832 John Ingold, Jr., of Schoharie village, was his colleague.

Squire Sexton, who now resides between the old tavern stand and the creek, and has held the office of justice for thirty years, related an incident in regard to Rice's official acts. Two men had a suit to be tried before him, and went to his office for that purpose, when, upon conversing, their troubles engaged their conver-

sation, and, as is usually the case, each became angry, and in their passion "let out" more, perhaps, than they intended relative to the case. Rice sat at his desk writing, and upon one of the men asking him if it was not time to call the suit, "Why yes," said Rice, "the time is up, and I've rendered judgment upon your own confession." An inexpensive way of trying lawsuits. Rice was supervisor of the town in 1814 and 1818, and held a Colonel's commission, and was a very energetic business man, much respected by all who knew him. He died September 8, 1832, aged seventy-two years.

First Meeting House.—But a few rods east of where Catharine Merckley was shot, towards the Methodist Church, near a large elm tree, the first church was built west of Schoharie. It was but a rude log building, and must have been built about the year 1760. Here Peter N. Sommers, and an occasional missionary, preached to the settlers of Dorchach until the Rhinebeck Church was built, and it was in this rude building that a few of the pioneers assembled, during the war, for the purpose of holding a prayer-meeting. While thus engaged, one of the company espied a band of Indians, fifteen in number, wending their way towards the house. Knowing that to retreat would arouse their vengeance, and, being unarmed, the leader of the meeting fell upon his knees and requested the remainder to do so, and pray for protection. Some moments passed in silent prayer, and the Indians not making any appearance, their movements were noticed and it was found that when within a few rods of the building they had changed their course, and left them unmolested. Many such escapes were experienced through that struggle, which seemed to mark the interposition of a watchful Providence, and impressed the early settlers with a deep sense of their dependence upon Him.

This neighborhood is as full of historical interest as any other in the County. It seems to us that the scenery around would convey to the stranger the idea of romance, if not of tragedy. Here the log cabin was reared in the depth of the forest, to which the scattering settlers might resort to hear the gospel preached, and mingle their petitions at the Throne of

Grace. Here the aged Merckley and beautiful Catharine fell by the hand of relentless hatred, and whose tragic end will resound to posterity and lead many to view the ground thus made memorable, and bow at the humble tombstone that marks her grave, in pity and admiration. One hundred years have come and gone since her death, and with them have passed the near friends whose tears were those of deep affection at the recital of the tale, yet again and again it is being told with no less degree of interest, but with more of romance.

Tradition unfolds a touching recital of an incident connected with the murder of young France, but a short distance above. While prostrated by the blow the Indian gave him, the mother returned, and upon approaching her son, he partially arose, and exclaimed with weakness and pain, in an appealing tone, "Ma-ma, mamma!" and fell fainting at the mother's feet. No death throes upon a bed of sickness, could pierce the heart with such vehement anguish as the appealing, confiding and agonized cry of the young man to the weak, helpless, and yet love-clinging mother. Beneath a rude stone, near where the heart-rending act transpired, lie the remains of poor John France, a lad of but fourteen years of age, the only offence for which he suffered being that he was the son of a patriot, and a helpless, defenseless child!

Nearly opposite of the blood-stained doorstep of Francis, the year following, upon the day of the battle of Sharon, a few Indians and Tories, on their retreat, murdered old Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman.

They lived upon the place now known as the "Klock farm." It was thought that the old couple's sympathies were favorable to the Crown, but some personal animosity prompted the Tories—Philip Crysler, perhaps—to murder the old man and his wife.

Mr. Hoffman was an aged man, and was attending religious services at the barn of Conrad Brown, at the foot of the hill, upon which "Turlah church" was afterwards built. It is now occupied by Martin L. Borst. While Sommers was reading a psalm, a messenger arrived, stating that he heard firing some distance west, and in all probability the enemy were not far

distant. The meeting broke up, and many made haste to their homes, to secrete their families and effects, while others started in the direction of the firing, to discover the cause. Mr. Hoffman was nearly two miles from his home, and hastened there, only to be murdered. As he approached the house, the Indians appeared and led him and his wife outside of the doorway, and tomahawked them. Mrs. Hoffman's sister, Catharine Engle, then on a visit, escaped. The main force of the army passed along to the north of the house, and crossed the West Kill, at the place, where the previous year Mr. Merckley and niece were murdered, and encamped for the night where Seward Valley village stands. The two preceding years in which the murderers appeared in this neighborhood, Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman had secreted themselves in the woods, knowing no doubt, of the hatred towards them, of the Tory Cryslers. At such times it requires but a small offense to lead such fiends to commit the most heinous crimes. Mrs. Hoffman was a daughter of Conradt Engle. Many times during the war, the Indians, when left at liberty to act, kindly left the aged and infants unharmed, while the Tories did not scruple to murder them without a pretext. It seemed to be the Tories ruling passion to destroy, torture and murder in the most inhuman ways.

We cannot recall to mind a single instance where the Indians were their equals in torturing, unless it was at the instigation of their pale faced allies; and much as the stigma rests upon the character of the savages, for acts committed during the Revolution, for cruelty and blood-thirst, those of the Tories outvie them all.

The France Family.—The oldest child of Sebastian France was born on the ocean in 1754, and married in 1772 to Luther Kling, a notice of whom may be found elsewhere. Catharine, the second daughter, married Wm. Ottman, who was taken prisoner in 1782. Betsey or Elizabeth, married Paul Shank, (see Cobleskill,) while the sons, Henry, Lawrence, and Jacob, married and reared families. Christopher married but died without heirs. After the murder of John, and burning of the barn buildings, the family removed to Watervliet and remained there until the war closed. Sebastian

France was the progenitor of the innumerable France family found in Schoharie and adjoining counties, beside an army in the distant west.

Centennial Anniversary.—The incidents of the 18th of October, 1780, were celebrated near the grave of Miss Merckley, on the centennial day. Gilbert France, a son of Henry France, presided, and able addresses were delivered by Hon. Charles Holmes, John Van Schaick, and William S. Clark. An appropriate poem was recited by a descendant, Miss Effie France, written for the occasion by H. H. Johnson. Nearly four thousand people were in attendance, and united to make the day one of interest and long to be remembered. Relics of one hundred years ago were exhibited, among which was wearing apparel of Miss Merckley, worn upon the day of her assassination; the old chair of Sebastian France; Indian accoutrements; ancient books, and many other things of interest belonging to the families connected with the early settlers of the neighborhood.

Captivity of the Ottman Children.—Some time in September, 1782, three brothers, William, Nicholas, and Peter, children of Christian Ottman, (then spelled Uttman) who lived where Isaac Ottman now lives, were taken prisoners by a party of Indians and carried to Niagara. Accompanying the Indians was a squaw, who had many times been hospitably succored by the family, whom Mrs. Ottman followed for some distance with such entreaties as only a mother can express, but of no avail. As she appealed to the squaw, she only answered "It's not me! not me!" When the children returned, one of their captors came with them, and Peter desired to follow the Indian back, having become fascinated with Indian life, which highly pleased the redskin. He desired to return to Canada with them, but the parents objected, and not until (tradition says) the Indian cut off the foretop of each, with a small bit of the scalp, would the children consent to remain. Upon his doing so they rushed to the mother and were contented. The story in regard to the foretop however, is without foundation. There were seven sons in the Ottman family who have long since passed away, and were the father and grandfather of the innumerable Ottmans of to-

day. They were in order of their ages, William, Daniel, John, Nicholas, Peter, George, and Cornelius. The party that took the boys captive passed down to Cobleskill village and made more prisoners, as stated in that chapter.

Christian Ottman, the father, came from Germany in 1761, and settled here soon after. The family name is variously spelled Ottman, Otman, Uttman, Utman, Oatman, yet all direct descendants of Christian. He died at the age of one hundred and two.

The first frame house of worship built in the town was the *Rhinebeck Church*, which is still standing. About the year 1760, quite a number settled here from Rhinebeck, on the Hudson, and the territory north and northwest of Lawersville was called "New Rhinebeck." This Lutheran society was organized by Peter N. Sommers in 1772, and a re-organization was effected according to act of 1801, in February, 1808. The edifice was built in 1785, and stands as the only relic in this section, of "ye olden time." The windows have been taken out and the old monument has the appearance of "wrecked desolation." Vandalism has made fearful work upon it. Many years ago it was remodeled, and the high-backed pews and antique pulpit were replaced by those of more modern date. The entrance was effected at the side, instead of at the end of the building, as is the custom at the present day. The pulpit stood opposite the door, and the gallery was upon three sides. The original desk should have been preserved, as it would have been a great curiosity at the present time, and greater still for years to come. It was an octagon, standing against the wall, upon one pillar or leg, requiring eight or ten steps to reach it. Back of the desk was a sounding-board, reaching quite high, and from the centre of the top, ribs, similar to those of an umbrella, spread out over the desk, and were covered with thinly wrought boards, giving the pulpit and parachute over it, the appearance of a modern drinking goblet, with another inverted above it. There was not room enough for more than one in the desk, and when its occupant sat down, the congregation could only discern the top of his head. A Baptist minister once preached in this pulpit

and made the remark that he "felt like standing in a hogshead and being compelled to speak through the bung-hole." As we stand within the desolated walls of this time-honored temple of our fathers, imagination can but lead us back to the days when aged Sommers, feeble and blind, drew vivid pictures of the sufferings of his Christ, upon whose arm he leaned so many years, and drew from his sturdy and faithful flock their honest "Amen!" as his feeble voice expressed his heartfelt sympathy and love. Here met men, women, and children, our parents and grandparents, after a lonely walk of many miles through the forest, to hear the word of God preached in a plain and unpretending manner.

One Henry Moeller, pronounced in English, Miller, was the first stationed minister, and preached here for many years. Johannes Lawyer, Jr., owning a tract of land here, sold to the Lutherans of Cobleskill, Rhinebeck and "Turlah," in March, 1789, for £110, a farm of 150 acres, upon which the church stands, for the support of it. In 1794, the members from Cobleskill built the "brick church," and withdrew from this.

A year or two after, the "Turlah" members built the church we mentioned as standing upon the brow of the hill above Borst's and called it "St. John's."

The "Turlah church" stood in the town of Seward, but a new one was built within a few years, a short distance west, and is in the town of Sharon. Moeller officiated as pastor of both churches, and died here at an advanced age, and was buried in the Rhinebeck cemetery, and afterwards at Slate Hill. The epitaph upon his tombstone he wrote himself, and reads, "After a long and hard pilgrimage, wherein I often erred, my Divine Saviour Jesus Christ led me by his holy word and spirit to His eternal home." He was a chaplain in the army, under General Washington, during the Revolution, and settled here soon after peace was proclaimed.

At the time the Cobleskill Lutherans withdrew from Rhinebeck, some difficulty was experienced and lasted several years, in regard to the church property, but it was amicably settled in 1808. In that year fifty acres of the farm

was set off for their benefit, which was "in full of all accounts." The structure was built by both Lutherans and Dutch Reformed, each worshipping within the walls with Christian spirit, and when the latter built a church of their own in 1800 at Lawyersville, the Lutherans promised to refund the amount of money the Reformed church had contributed, and did so in 1808, at the time the fifty acres were set off for their benefit. They became then the sole occupants and owners of the church and property. Prosperity smiled upon this society for many years, but like all things earthly it was doomed to trouble and decay. The revolt upon church discipline and technical doctrines of many staunch churchmen, gave rise to the "New School" or "Franckean Synod," and this church received a shock from which it has not and perhaps never will recover. In 1865 the farm was sold, and the last church meeting under the old order was held February 9, 1867, Daniel Engle being elected trustee, and Philip W. Strobeck, clerk. The associate trustees were Paul Strobeck and John J. Petrie.

The pastors of this ancient church have been as follows:—

Peter N. Sommers and others, of Schoharie church, up to 1806, when Henry Moeller came and remained till 1822.

Abraham Crounse, from 1823 to 1828.

Philip Weiting, from 1828 to 1838.

Mr. Emmerick, from 1838 to 1867, when only occasional preaching was sustained.

The "Rhinebeck Church" was called "St. Peter's.

Mr. Lawyer also sold one hundred and fifty acres of land lying to the east of the Rhinebeck lot, for the support of a "Reformed Church," and was occupied by Mr. Kinney. Upon the farm a parsonage was built, but not a church. Judge John M. Brown bought the parsonage in 1805, and removed it opposite of Hager Brown's barn, as a residence, where he lived many years. The church was erected at Lawyersville in 1800.

The first settlers of Rhinebeck now included in the territory of Seward, were the Loucks, Uttmans, (Ottman), Fredericks, and Browns. They were a hardy, industrious class of people,

and a few of them nobly acted in the cause of liberty in after years, and exhibited a Spartan bravery and an endurance which we take pride in ascribing as characteristic of the American pioneer. A few families of this settlement who were loyal to the Crown were passive, with but two exceptions, and did nothing to injure the Colonial cause.

Many of the old orchards through the town of Seward were brought from Schoharie and Breakabeen by the first settlers, upon their backs. We find they are not backward each season in their old age, in supplying their owners with an abundance of fruit, and we will not be overdrawing facts in saying that the farmers of this town, as a class, are not negligent in taking care of their orchards as well as their rich lands, and take pride in keeping everything around them in order.

Gold Mine.—But a short distance from the "Rhinebeck Church" are to be seen marks of a supposed rich paying "gold digging" that was commenced but a few years ago by one of the enterprising farmers of this locality. A son visited the west, and while there was induced to have his "fortune told" by an expert, that drew his knowledge from a common quartz crystal of a prodigious size, and which was said to be a "diamond." The young man was made acquainted with the cheering news that a gold mine could be found by digging in a certain spot upon his father's farm. He returned to his home, and upon stating the circumstance of the "fortune telling" to the family they became satisfied that there must be a "divinity" in the stone or man, and sent for him. Upon his coming, to use the words of our informant, "he walked right to the spot." Work was soon commenced, and the laborers being "worthy of their hire," a small sum, say a few hundred dollars, was expended. But on reaching the depth as instructed, the gold was not there, but instead, said our friend, a curious soil showed itself, which made the shovels as blue as "indigo bags." They little thought that they were so near the brimstone "pit" upon making the "blue" discovery! Being too eager and excitable, perhaps they "spoke" to each other just before they reached the gold, which would

cause the treasures to vanish, according to the belief of our good old Dutch fathers and mothers. There is indeed gold to be found in these noble hillsides and valleys, but not by digging such large holes. It is found in the corn and potato hills, in the rich pastures and luxuriant meadow lands, but careful industry and economy must be used to find it instead of a "diamond."

For many years after 1800, a tavern was kept by John Adam Strobeck, father of the late Paul Strobeck, upon the place of the latter's late residence. Here "general training" was quite often held, with its variety of amusements and gingerbread sales, and "high old times" in general, enjoyed by the hardy sons of the soil, which enlivened their wearisome life. An occasional horse-race was seen between the lusty wheat-fed horses, that always enjoyed the fun as well as their owners; also justice, here sat stalwart, amidst clouds of tobacco-smoke and fumes of "nog" and "flip," in all the dignity of an ancient burgomaster, rendering judgments against "counstopples" if the merits of the case could not warrant them against the plaintiffs or defendants. Hon Adam, as he was familiarly known, always drove good horses, and was captain in mischief for fun, especially while on the road to Albany with grain, when several neighbors would go in company, as was the custom, and run horses, turn around sign-posts, and occasionally have a few "rough and tumbles."

The cost of marketing produce fifty or sixty years ago, was more in gateage than in hotel accommodations, providing they did not drink too often. Lodging was six cents, horse stabling one shilling. The farmer carried his hay and grain to feed, beside his own "dinner box." Every bar-room was furnished with a large table, upon which the farmers would place their victuals and each one "help himself," without preference to claims. In extreme cold weather they indulged in a glass of "flip" to "warm up," and wash the food down; and in extreme heat to "cool off" and assist digestion; but when the weather was moderate—between the two extremes—one or two "horns" were taken, to be prepared for sudden changes. The ex-

pense was trifling, three cents for a single drink and a "quarter" for the crowd regardless of its numbers.

Hon Adam was in the battle of Sharon and was wounded in the hip from which he never fully recovered. After peace was proclaimed he settled here and amassed a fine property, and was followed by his son, Paul. Mr. Strobeck was a staunch patriot and a very charitable man, except to Tories, who were objects of his hatred. Long after the war closed, a gathering for training or a lawsuit was made at the Strobeck house, and among the number was an inveterate Tory, whose crimes had been many, by the name of Monk, and who boasted while under the influence of liquor, of his crimes. Strobeck caught him up and threw him in the large dutch fireplace that contained a blazing fire, and nearly burnt him to death. For many years the village now called "Hyndsville" was known as "Hoffmans Mills," which consisted of a grist and saw-mill, the former being the first one at this place, erected in 1795. When the postoffice was established, Squire Hynds received the appointment as postmaster, and the office as well as the place was named after him. It is fitting that all places bear the family name of the first settlers. The village being upon the Sharon & Cherry Valley railroad, which connects with one of the trunk lines of the State, is accessible to all parts, and by enterprise, aided by capital, may be made a flourishing manufacturing town, as the water privileges are very inviting. There is a superior quarry of flagging-stone near the railroad, from which those of large dimensions are obtained. Here are about two hundred inhabitants, two hotels, two variety stores, two wagon shops, one undertaker and two blacksmith shops, and a tin and cooper shop. A short distance east of the village upon the north bank of the West Kill, is the pleasant mansion of John Hynds, whose father, (Henry) was taken prisoner by the Indians on the 4th of July, 1780, as already mentioned. Mr. Hynd's mother was a daughter of Nicholas Warner, another prisoner, and who is a true sample of the original German settlers. His father was absent from home, as a prisoner, two years, and after marry-

ing, settled upon this place. The old gentleman died in 1854, at the age of eighty-four years, and was buried upon a pleasant knoll not far from the mansion. The grandfather, William, settled upon the south side of the creek, where George Winegard now resides, about the year 1756. He was a German, hardy and industrious. When the feeble colonists made a strike in Freedom's cause, we find he fainted not but stood firm, fearless and vigilant. When we consider his situation, in the midst of the forest, upon the hunting grounds of the savage, far from assistance when needed, liable to be tortured and slain any moment for his political sentiments, we cannot but admire and wonder at his bravery and zeal. Such characters brighten the pages of history.

The town has two postoffices, one at Hynds-ville and the other at Seward station. "Seward Valley" is a village in the north-west part of the town and is pleasantly located. It was formerly called "Neeley's Hollow" after one of the prominent citizens and first settlers, Mathew Neeley, from Florida, Montgomery county. He settled upon the place now occupied by — Hagadorn, and was a blacksmith and Baptist preacher. He founded the Baptist church at this place over which he presided for several years. He kept the first store in the place, and was a very energetic business man, but removed to Cattaraugus county, where he died at a ripe old age.

Here are two churches, a grist and saw-mill, and about thirty houses. A foundry was run successfully for many years, but at present it "is not." The Seward postoffice was formerly here, but upon the completion of the railroad through the town, a station was established about one mile distant to the northeast, and named Seward Station, and the postoffice was removed to it.

SEWARD STATION.

Quite a settlement is being formed, which consists of a hotel, two stores, grist-mill and nearly twenty houses. Clark B. Griggs was the pioneer settler of this hamlet, as a merchant and hotel keeper. It being a central station for a large territory, well cultivated and

productive, the prospect of its becoming an active business centre seems favorable. Nearly two miles from the station to the north is Gardnersville.

GARDNERSVILLE.

Gardnersville is a small hamlet, named in honor of Dow B. Gardner, who was long engaged in the mercantile business, but removed to Albany, and was the ticket agent of the "Rensselaer & Saratoga" railroad for several years. He was the father of "Billy" Gardner, the first regular conductor on the Albany & Susquehanna railroad, which position he held for many years.

The farm upon which resides Abram France, as we have before mentioned, was the "Crysler farm," but the old house stood farther to the east than the present one. When the property was confiscated after the war, Lawrence France purchased it, whose heir now resides upon the farm.

The large and substantial church standing here was built by the Lutherans of the "new school" that withdrew from the Rhinebeck and "Turlah" churches under the leadership of Rev. Philip Weiting.

Rev. Philip Weiting.—Mr. Weiting was born in Minden, Montgomery county, N. Y., Sept. 23, 1800, and entered the ministry in 1825, at Le Roy, Jefferson county, N. Y., from whence he removed to New Rhinebeck, in 1828, to officiate over that church and Dorlach, which position he held for forty years, and brought them from a "fading" shadow to their present high standard, by his untiring labors and fervent godliness. Upon the division of the Synod, Mr. Weiting and his followers claimed the Rhinebeck church property, while the Dorlach charge, which held to the old Synod, commenced litigation to retain it. After many years of legal dispute the courts decided against the new school's (Franckean Evangelic Lutheran Synod,) rights to the property, and Mr. Weiting and flock found themselves destitute of a house of worship. Measures were immediately taken, and in 1849 this church of Gardnersville was dedicated, but the building was burned soon after, supposed to have been

the work of an incendiary. Not daunted, the present one soon took its place, in which the greatest efforts of Mr. Weiting's life in the cause of the Master, were witnessed. The congregation was large, covering a wide extent of territory, and it became necessary to build a branch at Lawyersville, which was done, in the latter part of 1849, and dedicated in February, 1850.

Mr. Weiting preached his valedictory sermon on the first day of October, 1868, the fortieth anniversary of his pastorate over his charge—in which he said "The aggregate of money raised by these two churches during my ministry is \$35,000, or an average of \$800 a year." His last sermon was preached in the new brick Lutheran church at Cobleskill, on the 18th day of July, 1869. The fruits of his ministry in the sparsely settled section in which he was placed were, "received to membership, 1,250, baptized 1,300, marriages solemnized, 800, and 1,700 funerals attended." "Fifteen of his spiritual children,"—says his memoir—"entered or are about to enter the ministerial calling."

On the 7th of September, 1869, Mr. Weiting died, in the sixty-ninth year of his age, and was buried in the "Slate Hill Cemetery" by a large concourse of friends, by whom he was dearly loved.

His biographer says, which is true, also of his whole life in all relations: "The secret of his successful ministry was earnestness, fidelity, perseverance."*

Railroads.—The railroads have proved the death blow to the little hamlets scattered throughout the County that were unfortunate enough to lie away from their lines, as quite a business in a small way was once done there. The "defunct" little Janesville boasted of being quite active and attractive, but its life and energy have flown, and the rattling of the wheels and shriek of the whistle, that pass with the speed of the wind, prove to be exultations of triumph over their feeble efforts to "do something."

However, the good people have a church, where they assemble and worship; several mechanical shops to drive away "gloomy fore-

bodings," and many homes that are as cheery as if a railroad ran around each one. It matters little, where peace and plenty abound, especially where fond affection draws its golden cord around the hearthstone, and makes it in the true sense of the term a "home—be it ever so humble."

Colonel Willett's Raid for Subsistence.—During the Revolutionary struggle many farmers of New Dorlach were well-to-do, and raised large crops, and being loyalists, Colonel Willett in command at Fort Plain, occasionally sent foraging parties over to obtain supplies, such as grain, meat, and other articles for subsistence, which they took without "leave or license." But one suit at law emanated from those acts of which we have been made acquainted, from the fact that the articles thus taken were from those who were unable to prove their loyalty to the Colonies. The suit was brought on to recover fees for obtaining damages from the government, which brought out the following facts:—

On the day of the battle of Sharon, Colonel Willett and his men followed the retreating force to Conradt Brown's, (where the meeting was broken up upon hearing the firing,) and made a raid upon his eatable effects. Finding a goodly store, they came at different times. At the close of the war, Brown proved his patriotism and petitioned for redress. The Legislature of New York passed an act in 1785 exonerating Willett, and required him to account to the State for the property so taken, and to pay the value of the same or account to the Treasurer of New York, that it might be brought into account with the United States. It was paid by the Government to New York in 1790, with interest, in order that the persons who were entitled to the same might make application to the Legislature for the amount. The amount in 1790 was \$1,575.00. We believe the money was obtained, but whether the heirs of Brown or the agents employed to get the amount realized the most, we are unable to say. Several other claims against the government for "subsistence" thus taken from New Dorlach, were presented, but the failure of the claimants to prove their allegiance debarred them from receiving any compensation.

*See portrait, Town of Cobleskill.

Mills.—The first grist-mill in the town was built about the year 1765, by Henry Haines, a little below the bridge that crosses the stream near the "Haines farm" buildings. The next were "Rice's Mills" near Squire Sextons, and soon after "Hoffmans Mills." H. A. Warner is the present proprietor of the "Seward Grist-mill" near the station, which was built in 1795. A saw-mill is connected, which has for long years assisted to clear the forest, and cause a scarcity of water through the summer months, that has compelled the purchase of an engine to drive the grist-mill, as in many other instances throughout the country. The waste of lumber in past years has been great, while nothing has been done towards the propagation of forest trees.

In 1850 Tobias Warner and G. Miller erected the mill now owned by John McChesney, with four run of stone, capable of grinding three hundred bushels daily. These mills, together with several saw-mills add much to the business of the town beside affording a convenience that may well be highly appreciated.

Merchants.—The first merchant of Hynds-ville was Abram Hynds, a son of Henry. He built the present brick store occupied by Philip P. Hilton. Mr. Hilton succeeded him in 1839, and is a son of Peter A. Hilton, for a long time a merchant and supervisor of Sharon. His trade is in dry goods, groceries, crockery and hardware, as also is James A. Wilber and Clark B. Griggs, at Seward Station, and Wright Bros., of the Valley. M. E. Myers, of Hynds-ville, and N. Southworth at Janesville keep a line of groceries only. Q. & H. B. Calkins, of Hynds-ville, Menzo Brown, of Janesville, and Chas. Brown, of the Valley, are engaged in wagon and sleigh making. H. B. Loyd is undertaker and furniture dealer, at Janesville. It is a fact, that before the railroad was built through the county local merchants and tradesmen were more numerous and more busily engaged than at present. Trade of all kinds has been led off to more distant centers, where competition is formed, to invite trade.

The "Hynds-ville Cornet Band" composed of fifteen pieces, under the leadership of Henry Bellinger, is an organization worthy of our

attention, as it has but few if any equals in the country. It was organized in 1868 by farmers and mechanics, of whom proficiency in musical attainments is not expected.

CHURCHES.

There are five churches in the town, which consist of three Methodist, one Baptist, and one Lutheran, and are so situated that the inhabitants can conveniently attend divine service.

The Baptist Church of Seward Valley.—The records of this church prove it to be the oldest organization in the town, excepting the New Rhinebeck, which has long ceased to wield its influence. We find upon the fly-leaf of the church-book that upon the 18th of October, 1820, "Agreeable to request of a number of Baptist Brethren belonging to the towns of Sharon and Decatur, a number of delegates from the following churches met in council:—From the church of Charlestown—Elder Elisha Herrick, brothers Ebenezer Norris and Moses Persons; from the church of Summit—Julian Beeman, brothers Elisha Bruce and David D. Rider; from the church in Schoharie—Elder Burton Carpenter; from the church in Worcester—Deacon David Holmes, brothers David Goat, Allen Sheldon and Edward Pinder. After singing and prayer, Elder Herrick* was chosen moderator, and Elder Burton Carpenter, clerk. Articles of faith and practice were then presented."

The church was thus formed under the Rensselaerville Association, and Mathew Nealy, a self-made preacher, officiated as such, holding their meetings alternately at this place and the school-house in Decatur. Sometime between 1820 and 1824, Elder Leonard Marsh settled as pastor, but for some transgression of conduct, perhaps did work of some kind upon the Sabbath, which was not unusual, for nearly all of the inhabitants after church service—especially the German element. A committee was appointed by the Rensselaerville Association, and met in November, 1824, "to inquire into the situation of the church." The result was "As to Elder L. G. Marsh, we are of the opinion that the repeated shifting of his principles and the

manner of dealing with the church renders him unworthy of the confidence of his brethren." At a meeting held a few days after at Decatur, the same committee decided to "withdraw the hand of fellowship from Leonard Marsh and Deacon Matthew Nealy, for disregarding the first day of the week as the Christian Sabbath in principle, and for advocating the cause of a transgressor."

Their first house of worship was built upon the south side of the creek, in 1834. Being small for the congregation we find, February 20, 1856, "the building of the Seward Baptist church and shed is let this day to Josephus Simmons by the job at \$1,350," and on the 31st of December, the new church was dedicated. This church was not incorporated until the 31st day of December, 1857.

The following have officiated as preachers:—

Elders Herrick and Matthew Nealy to 1824.

Leonard G. Marsh, from 1824 to 1825.

Herrick, Nealy and Marsh, to 1834.

Henry Topping, 1834.

Elijah Spafford, 1851.

H. H. Chase, 1853.

C. Brown, 1854.

Elijah Spafford, 1855.

Russel H. Spafford, 1859.

G. W. Abrams, 1863 to 1865.

I. Powell, 1871.

G. W. Wentworth, 1873.

Levi Rury, 1874.

P. C. Bently, 1875.

The pulpit was supplied by Elder Collins, of Richmondville, to April, 1880, when Homer Denton was called and accepted, and still remains.

Seward Centre Methodist Episcopal Church.

—The first records of this society reach back to September 17, 1831, when Isaac Grant was preacher in charge, and William Diefendorf and Frederick Ramsey were local preachers in the "Sharon Circuit." At a meeting, William Calkins and William M. Wilcox were chosen circuit stewards. The first election of trustees was held on the 18th of March, 1833, when Alfred Williams, William Boyce, William Calkins, Derron Rowley, and Hiram Sexton, were chosen, and at the same time it was

"*Resolved*, That this religious society shall be known and distinguished as the Zion Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the town of Sharon."

Articles of incorporation were adopted and the society became an established and legal body. Rev. Isaac Grant and David H. France presided at the meeting. The year following, 1834, the present edifice was erected, and the society was one of the largest in the County.

Upon the building of the railroad through Hyndsville, the people of that section anticipated a progressive village, and built a fine edifice as a branch of this church, also the portion of the society living at and near Seward Valley built a neat and substantial church at their place, also as a branch. All three are as one parish, and the pastors of the mother church and the two branches are as follows, with years in which they served:—

1831—Isaac Grant.

1832—Isaac Grant.

1833—Isaac Grant and William Allen.

1834—Edward Dennison and Abram Fish.

1835—Isaac Grant.

1836—George Harmon.

1837—Jared C. Ransom.

1838—Isaac D. Warren.

1839—Alexander C. Daniels and John T. Wright.

1840—Alexander C. Daniels and John T. Wright.

1841—Eben L. North.

1842—Eben L. North and Abram Diefendorf.

✓ 1843—Frederick Brazee.

1844—R. M. Van Schaick.

1845—C. Pomeroy.

1846—Amos Osborn.

1847—Amos Osborn.

1848—Amos Osborn.

1849—Joel Squires.

1850—Joel Squires.

1851—C. E. Giddings.

1852—C. E. Giddings.

1853—E. Watson.

1854—E. Watson.

1855—A. Lyon.

A break here seems to be made, and perhaps re-united with the Richmondville circuit.

1864—M. B. Mead.

1867—S. S. Ford.

1869—A. J. Day.

1870—W. J. Sand.

1873—G. E. Metcalf.

1874—E. E. Taylor.

1876—A. W. Smith.

1877—W. J. Chapman.

1880—J. H. Clark, at present officiating.

Gardnersville Lutheran Church.—The early history of this society is so intimately connected with the life and labors of the late Philip Weiting, that we have referred to it in a notice of that veteran's life. Since he resigned the pastorate of this church, the pulpit has been supplied by the following: Chauncy Diefendorf, N. Daniels, H. L. Dox, the present pastor.

Mr. Dox wrote the life of Philip Weiting, from which we glean the facts in our notice of the veteran preacher.

The Dairy Interest of the town has become of marked proportions. The pure spring water of the hills, and succulent grasses, unite to make dairying a special feature of the farmer's pursuits. There are at present three large cheese factories with a united capacity for the milk of fifteen hundred cows, while many dairymen manufacture both cheese and butter themselves, the amount of which we are unable to learn, but of such amount as to rank the town among the first of the County in the dairy products.

The cheese associations are the "Seward Valley Cheese Factory," "Seward Centre Cheese Factory," and "Gardnersville Cheese Factory."

PHYSICIANS.

Doctors White, of Cherry Valley, Pinneo, of Sharon, and Shepherd, of Lawersville, were the early practitioners of this town, and the first resident one was Andrew Hines, about the year 1835. He was followed by Doctors Mosher and Charles Abrams. The latter was a superior scholar, and usually taught a class in the languages and mathematics. Doctors Sutphun and Eldredge, preceded the present, excepting E. O. Bruce, who graduated at the Castleton Medical College, in 1858, and was contemporary with the latter. Doctor Henry A. Myer is a gradu-

ate of the Syracuse Medical School, of the class of 1853, and licensed in 1874, by the Eclectic Medical Society.

Doctor Charles Dickerson, of Seward Station, graduated in 1860, at the Albany Medical College.

The town gave bonds to aid in the construction of the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad, to the amount of \$30,000, although the road did not reach the bounds of the town. At the time the "Erie railroad war" was waging, the stock of the Susquehanna, and town bonds given to it were at par. The town wisely sold the bonds and was released from paying them. Upon the building of the Sharon and Cherry Valley branch the people once more put forth a helping hand, and issued bonds to the amount of \$25,000 to assist in the construction, a greater part of which is unpaid. The road passes through the central part of the town, by following the West Kill, and proves a great convenience to the inhabitants, by making a ready market for their products, at their doors, or cheap transportation to distant marts. We do not know of a township that is more conveniently located, more picturesque in appearance, or is more productive than the town of Seward. It has 20,106 acres of land whose corrected valuation in 1880 was \$499,272. The population by census of 1875 was 1772, of which number 416 is found upon the tax list of 1880 with an assessed valuation of \$15,475, personal. The total amount of tax for that year was \$8,559.27. Interest and five per cent of railroad bonds was \$2,834; rate per cent of tax on each dollar assessed \$.0275.

THE CLOVE.

That section of the town called "The Clove," is a romantic spot, and first settled by the Coss family, who are still its occupants. The valley was originally called "Clauver Kloof," meaning Clover Valley, from the wild clover being found there. In after years Clauver was dropped and it was known as "The Kloof," a name given to such dish-like valleys by the Dutch, and which in English is "The Clove." Undoubtedly Isaac Vroman, (Low Dutch) who did the surveying of the Dorlach Patent, and was here in 1730, together with other Low Dutchmen, who were interested in these lands, gave the valley

the Low Dutch name, as those that first settled here were Germans, and in their language would have called it "Klaufche." The hills surrounding were called by the Indians Onnondada.

SUPERVISORS.

The following is a list of Supervisors elected in the town with the date of their election:—

- 1840—Peter Hynds.
- 1841—Peter Hynds.
- 1842—Andrew Hynds.
- 1843—Austin Sexton.
- 1844—Austin Sexton.
- 1845—John C. Shutts.
- 1846—Abraham Sternbergh.
- 1847—Abraham Sternbergh.
- 1848—Robert M. Van Schaick.
- 1849—Tobias Warner.
- 1850—Abraham Sternbergh.
- 1851—Peter Hynds.
- 1852—Alfred W. Rowley.
- 1853—Joseph Zeh.
- 1854—Kirtland Handy.
- 1855—Nathaniel Southworth.
- 1856—John C. Shutts.
- 1857—John C. Shutts.
- 1858—John C. Shutts.
- 1859—Jacob H. Diefendorf.
- 1860—Isaac Bellinger.
- 1861—Henry A. Stall.
- 1862—Isaac Bellinger.
- 1863—Isaac Bellinger.
- 1864—Isaac Bellinger.
- 1865—Abraham Sternbergh.
- 1866—Abraham Sternbergh.
- 1867—Abraham Sternbergh.
- 1868—E. O. Bruce.
- 1869—E. O. Bruce.
- 1870—Sylvester Diefendorf.
- 1871—H. A. Warner.
- 1872—H. A. Warner.
- 1873—H. A. Warner.
- 1874—John G. Empie.
- 1875—H. A. Warner.
- 1876—John G. Empie.
- 1877—John Patry.
- 1878—Elias Pierce.
- 1879—Elias Pierce, (deceased.)
- 1879—John Patry, elected to fill vacancy.
- 1880—David H. Osterhout.

1881—Menzo Young.

1882—Menzo Young.

LEGISLATURE.

The town was represented in the Legislature in 1841, by Nicholas Beekman, and in 1849, by Austin Sexton.

CHAPTER XVIII.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF RICHMONDVILLE.

FORMATION OF TOWN—FIRST SETTLEMENT—
 GEORGE WARNER—HIS HOUSE—JOHN ZEA
 AND FAMILY—APPEARANCE OF AN ENEMY—
 BORST BROTHERS' CONFLICT—ASSISTANCE
 CALLED—MARCH TO WARNER'S HOUSE—
 AMBUSHED BY INDIANS—FLIGHT—STAND AT
 WARNER'S—PATRIOTISM OF SOLDIERS—BAT-
 TLE GROUND—INCIDENTS OF THE DAY—
 TORY BROTHERS—BUILDINGS BURNED—
 GEORGE WARNER, JR., TAKEN PRISONER—
 NICHOLAS WARNER'S FAMILY RELICS—CAP-
 TAIN SNYDER—HIS LIFE—SNYDER FAMILY—
 WARNERVILLE—GEORGE MANN—WARNER-
 VILLE METHODIST CHURCH—CHRISTIAN
 CHURCH—SEMINARY—RICHMONDVILLE SASH
 AND BLIND FACTORY—BRADLEY'S FULLING
 MILL—FOUNDRY—FIRST TAVERN—JOHN
 WARNER—FIRST JUSTICE OF THE PEACE—
 HON. JOHN WESTOVER—FIRST MAIL CARRIER
 —PHYSICIANS—CHURCHES—METHODIST—
 LUTHERAN—CHRISTIAN—SEMINARY—RICH-
 MONDVILLE BANK—NEWSPAPERS—SCHOOL
 AT WEST RICHMONDVILLE—THE JUMEL LITI-
 GATION—THE TOWN RAILROAD BONDS—
 SUPERVISORS—PRESENT BUSINESS OF TOWN.

WE find that the "Schoharie County Direc-
 tory" and "French's Gazetteer," two
 works often referred to, are in error in regard
 to the date of this town's formation. They both
 give the date, April 11, 1845. Isaac Mann, a

practical surveyor, now living in the town, surveyed the line in February, 1849 and on the 11th of April following, an act was passed by the Legislature, making it a town, taking the whole from the town of Cobleskill, and giving it the name of the postoffice—Richmondville.

On the 21st of October, 1851, a portion of Seward was annexed, making the town's present territory.

First Settlement.—Warner Family.—The first settlers were George Warner and John Zea, who came from Germany and settled near the hamlet now known as Warnerville. There were three of the Warner brothers that immigrated to this country, who were the progenitors of the family bearing that name throughout the country, especially in Albany and Schoharie counties. They were George, Stuffle and HonYost, or Joseph. Stuffle, or Christopher, settled in Berne, Albany county, of whom Dr. Philip I. Werner, of Barnerville, is a descendant. While those of the name living at Warner Hill east of Schoharieville are descendants of HonYost.

The original name is Werner and some branches of the family write it so, while others give the German *e* the sound of English *a* and write it Warner. Those living in this locality use the latter orthography. George Warner was born in 1720, and settled here in the spring of 1764, in a log house that stood near where James Warner now resides, and reared two sons, whose connection with him in the Revolutionary struggles, made the family name memorable upon Schoharie County history. Nicholas and George Jr., were staunch patriots, although young—and the only children that were old enough to take a part in the conflict.

Both have long since been laid by the ashes of their father, upon a knoll back of the present residence of James Warner, a grandson of George, Jr. Even the children have grown old and died, the last, Marcus, son of George Jr., passed away within the past year at the ripe old age of eighty-eight. We had the pleasure of meeting him a few months before he died and listened to his trembling voice as he recited many incidents connected with his father's life, and which often animated his feeble form, as if new

life and vigor were given it, and enkindled a sparkle in his eye of a patriotic and courageous glow, which spoke plainly that the true and tried spirit of '76 yet lived. He was born, lived and died upon the same building site, which seems a remarkable case, since the modern Americans have become "ramblers" but it is only one of many, to be found in our staid Schoharie. The first house built by Warner, as we have mentioned, was a log hut, but some time previous to 1778, a frame one was built near the family burial ground, and a trace of its cellar may still be seen. This house, Author Simms says, was the first building burned in the Schoharie settlements by the enemy in the Revolution. It was in the burning of that house, that two, more than Spartans fell, whose valor gives lustre to the annals of history, and which we will shortly consider. The family built another frame building after peace was proclaimed, in which Marcus was born and which stood where James Warner's residence now stands.

John Zea and Family.—As before stated, John Zea settled here at the same time—in 1764—and occupied the farm now owned by Alexander Larkin. The old house stood near the creek, upon the south side of the road, and was the only one west of Warner's until after the Revolution.

Some time previous to 1778, Zea and his wife passed away, leaving his sons, John and Nicholas, and four daughters, in possession of the farm, that comprised a large tract at that time, but which has since been cut up into several farms. The family has become extinct, there not being one left bearing the name. John was killed in the battle of Cobleskill, and was unmarried, and his brother Nicholas proved to be a Tory, and fled to Canada, from whence he did not return, and leaving only a daughter as his issue.

Appearance of an Enemy.—As nothing occurred in this part of Cobleskill settlement, (with the exception of the addition of the Frimire family as settlers east of the Warner place soon after 1764), until the day before the battle of Cobleskill, we will now consider the facts relating to that event, which proved the

most disastrous to the settlement, and which also proved the true political sentiments of the few citizens of the valley.

All border settlements had been in a constant state of alarm, as the Tories had threatened an invasion, which gave rise to the organization of the militia company in the valley for protection. Lieutenant Jacob Borst and brother Joseph, accompanied by John Frimire, started early on the morning of May 30, 1778, upon a scouting expedition down the Schenevus creek. After traveling nearly to the head-waters of that stream and the Cobleskill, Frimire expressed his fears of a safe return home, as he believed he had a presentiment of misfortune. His comrades allowed him to return, which led many, that perhaps had less patriotism, to cast the epithet of "Tory" upon him. The Borst brothers continued on, and returned the next day, and overtook two Indians a short distance east of the present village. They accused the brothers of being in quest of Indians, and showed a disposition for an encounter by throwing the priming from one of the brothers' guns, after a pretended salutation.

"Joseph," says Judge Brown in his brief history, "with ready presence of mind and good resolution, dropped his own gun and clinched the Indian's piece—took hold and twisted the flint out of the cock, and then replied in Mohawk, 'To zenery it sagat;' that is to say, 'It is good that this is just so.' At this, the Indian clinched Borst with lion-like fury. Borst, not in the least daunted, but with good resolution, also took a rash hold, gave a hearty Indian whoop, which took away half of the Indian's strength, and soon brought him down on his knees. At this time a shot fell behind his back. The Indian, almost naked, strove to extricate himself from Borst's hands, now slipped loose and ran off leaving his gun in the lodge. Lieutenant Borst, who by this time had finished the best part of his business with the other Indian, ran up to his brother and picked up his gun, but Hanyerry escaped. * * * *

"Lieutenant Borst now stood in every way exposed. The other Indian, Oness Taap, came up and demanded him to surrender prisoner; he made one step back, and replied, 'Taghte,'

which is to say 'no!' then shot him through the body, and broke his backbone, so let him lay, and made off."

The Borst brothers returned to the militia rendezvous at Christian Brown's, and reported the facts, which no doubt led the small company to believe that the two Indians were not alone but were sent forward by a large force to reconnoitre. A messenger was sent to Schoharie for assistance, and Captain Patrick of the regular service, and forty continental soldiers were sent over and arrived early in the morning of June 1st, at Captain Brown's, where sixteen of the valley militia had assembled. Leaving the patriots to become better acquainted with each other, we will examine into the movements of the enemy. Captain Brant the dreaded Mohawk chief, had raised a force of Aquago Indians and a few loyalists, and marched to Cherry Valley for the purpose of destroying the place, but believing a force of Tryon county militia was stationed there and not wishing to hazard an attack, he turned his steps towards Cobleskill to devastate the valley.

The force arrived at the Zea house early in the morning of June 1st,* and Brant had a friendly consultation with Nicholas, which his four sisters witnessed, and which gave them to understand for the first time that he was a loyalist or as more plainly expressed by them "a Tory." The girls fled from the house, and, undoubtedly, apprised the Warner family or some others, of the enemy's proximity, who communicated the fact to the force at Captain Brown's.

Ambuscade and Battle.—The enemy lay quiet above Zea's, and the troops marched up to the Warner house and while being regaled by the host's good-cheer and joined by four more militia, a few redskins presented themselves to the westward of the house to intimidate the patriots. Captain Brown and his men, who were well acquainted with Indian strategy, divined their object, but Captain Patrick would not listen to their cautious warnings, and, being superior in rank, ordered the troops to follow the Indians. Obeying the command, the force,

* The date of the battle we accept of J. R. Simms' "Border Wars"

numbering but sixty, pursued them, and were led in an ambush upon the broad flat west of the Snyder brothers' present residence, which proved disastrous to the Patriots, and showed the truth of Brown's warnings. Captain Patrick, with many others, fell upon the first fire, and the command was given by Brown to retreat, as he saw the enemy were strong in numbers, and were closing upon them. They fought desperately from tree to tree on their retreat towards the Warner house, but they were so pressed they were obliged to make a precipitate flight. Upon nearing the house, they saw that strategy must be used or all would be either killed or taken prisoners, and their families in the lower part of the valley also become objects of torture and death, as the barbarous clan would pour down upon them before they knew of their presence.

The house being reached, four noble braves entered to give battle to their pursuers and enable the remainder to effect their escape and apprise their families of their danger. Soon the building was surrounded by the whole force, numbering in the neighborhood of three hundred, whose savage propensities were excited to unmerciful ends. Bravely, heroically they fought, but

"Alas! 'twas but to die."

The torch was applied, and the eager, maddening flames, as if jubilant to finish the fiendish work, soon reduced the dwelling to ashes. During the burning, a Continental soldier tried to make his escape but was caught, and an act of cruelty practiced upon his helpless body that should make the prince of demons blush. His abdomen was opened and his entrails fastened to a tree, and he compelled to walk around it until he sank in untold agony. In derision of the government's financial distress, a roll of Continental bills were placed in his mouth and left. Another one tried to escape but was shot, and two, Martines Ferster and John Frimire, were burned with the building. Those men knew if they loitered here their doom would be sealed, yet they threw themselves as barricades before the foe to save others. They fell as the three hundred at the pass of Thermopylae, whose valor has brightened history's page for centuries. Poets have tuned their lyres to praise in song

those heroic Spartans, and for ages, granite spires reared by a grateful and admiring nation have marked the spot as sacred ground upon which they so fearlessly fell. But here lie Ferster and Frimire, and their unknown comrades, at the gates of new born civilization, as it were, without a tablet to mark their resting place! Almost unknown, forgotten! Yet here they lie, true martyrs in a holy cause.

A small detachment a few days after the conflict, from Schoharie, laid them here in rude pits, without display—without a chant, except such as emanates from the very depths of loving hearts, by trembling sighs and flowing tears.*

Beyond the stream, upon a distant bank, a marble shaft marks the spot where lies a martyr of a later date, after defending the gates of our country's harbor from a brother's reckless hatred. George W. Snyder, of Sumter memory, was a worthy son to lie beside the ashes of Ferster, Frimire and others that fell here in 1778.

The contemplation of such spirits can but animate lesser ones to deeper love of humanity, and firmer, stronger love of country.

After the enemy left the house they passed down the valley, laying houses and barns in ashes; but the women and children having timely notice, secreted themselves in the forest and escaped unharmed. The murderous clan retraced their steps to the battle-ground and buried about sixty of their comrades, that the patriots killed, in a morass to the west, a trace of which may still be seen. They encamped for several days on the flat below the village, to care for their wounded, and then passed over to the Charlotte trail to their wigwams.

The patriots were scattered throughout the woods, and several days elapsed before they all reached the fort and a knowledge of their loss was ascertained. From the little band of sixty, twenty-two were killed, and two made prisoners, (Continentalists) and several wounded. It will be seen that every shot made by the little force, was to kill.

As we have mentioned, the engagement was upon the broad flat west of the Snyder brothers'

*Simms.

residence. The Indians formed a half circle, their right lying against the rise of ground to the south of the road, and the left near the creek. The Patriots marched in the center of the opening, and gained nearly the center of the circle, before they were apprised of their critical situation, and upon learning it, fell back a short distance, which debarred the enemy from closing upon them and cutting off a retreat. Finding their numbers were great, it was useless to undertake to cope with them, and a retreat was made, although stubbornly.

As we before stated, there were four girls in the Zea family, Sophronia, (afterwards Mrs. John Karker,) of whom Adam, Philip, and Peter William, are grandchildren, Miss Catharine, Lana, (Mrs. Luther Snyder,) and Margaret, (Mrs. Christopher Warner,) of Albany county.

Sophronia was the eldest, and was about sixteen, and upon arriving where Cobleskill village now stands, upon their way to the Schoharie fort, having missed her pocket, (a necessary appendage in those days,) in which a few family valuables were placed, she resolved to return to the house and procure it, bidding her sisters to flee direct to the fort and not wait for her return. After traveling back to the homestead and obtaining the article, she started alone for the fort, and upon her arrival, found that Catharine had strayed away from the rest and was not to be found. Three days passed without any tidings of her fate, and she was given up as killed or taken prisoner. Towards night of the third day, a couple of men were on their way to fish near the "Lime Kilns," in Middleburgh, when they were startled by a moaning in a rock hole a short distance off. Upon approaching, they found Catharine nearly dead with fright and cold. She refused to leave her retreat, fearful of being massacred by her rescuers, and they were obliged to carry her to the fort. Her mental powers were so shocked that she never recovered, although she lived to the age of eighty-three.

Sophronia received a visit from her brother, Nicholas, after she married, it being the first time he returned from Canada, where he fled after the battle, but her patriotism overcame

family affection, and she refused to extend even the courtesy of a chair for him to sit upon. She accused him of being in the battle and shooting his brother, John, which he did not deny. The brothers had made an agreement after the father's death to the effect that John should join the militia, and Nicholas remain at home and attend to the farm, and while thus engaged it was ascertained that he acted as a spy, and gave all the information he could obtain regarding the Patriots' movements to their enemy, without being suspected.

All of the buildings that stood within the present limits of the town were burned by the enemy, excepting the Zea buildings and the old log house first reared by George Warner, which it was thought was spared for the purpose of Warner to occupy, that they might return some future time and capture him. Warner was a "Committee man" and a bounty of twenty dollars was given by the British officers for any such officials as prisoners, and eight dollars for their scalp.

Twice this settlement was visited by the enemy for the purpose of taking George Warner, Sr., prisoner. Upon the 8th of July, 1782, Adam Crysler at the head of a small squad of Indians appeared at the log house, and not being fortunate in finding the father at home, took the son, George, Jr., prisoner, and held him as such at Niagara until peace was proclaimed, when with several others he ran away and returned home. His captivity was attended with less severity than many others, yet as often was the case, snakes, horseflesh and many other unpalatable eatables were resorted to, to sustain life while upon the march. The day before the taking of George, Jr., the same party appeared upon Fox's creek and committed murder, as will be seen by consulting the chapter on the town of Wright.

In December (18th,) following the capture of George, Jr., the renowned murderer, Seths Henry with a party of eight fellow savages appeared suddenly at the log house and took the father and son prisoners and left the neighborhood without being noticed. They staid the night previous with a Tory in the Rhinebeck settlement, expecting to capture John Philip

Karker, but he being away from home they passed over to Warner's. The party directed their steps towards the Charlotte trail, through a new fallen snow and encamped for the night near Summit village.

Nicholas watched his opportunity late at night and made his escape, traveling the greater part of the distance with bare feet. The old gentleman was taken to Canada and received very good treatment considering the nature of his host. He was exchanged after an absence of eleven months and returned to his family.

We see at one time three of this family were held as prisoners by the unmerciful foe. Drear must have been the fireside the night following the capture of the husband and son. The fate of George, Jr. was unknown. The thousand phantoms which the imagination leads the terrified mind to view must have made the wife and mother's heart quiver in terror and dismay. We cannot wonder at the bitter hatred that filled the breasts of the patriotic women of the Revolution towards the Tories and Indians. The former were feared throughout the border settlements more than the latter, as their hearts seemed to be calloused, many times in torturing, where the uncivilized Indians were merciful. It is a fact, that the most inhuman, more than brutish, acts that were committed during the war were by, or at, the instigation of those who were called civilized. The most wanton acts of cruelty were committed by them upon friends and even kinsmen, such as put the "untutored savage" to blush.

Nicholas Warner.—Undoubtedly there did not exist a man that bore a greater enmity to the Indians and Tories than Nicholas Warner. He was an inveterate enemy to them. While upon a scouting expedition he encountered an Indian in the woods, and both "took to trees." Warner peered out one side of the tree to see his "game," but drew back with his eyes' full of chips, from the bark which the Indian's bullet caused to fly as it whizzed past. After clearing his eyes, he ventured once more, and supposed he had a fair chance at the head of the redskin, and fired. Instead of the head, it was the Indian's hat placed upon the end of the ramrod to deceive Warner, and as soon as he fired, the

Indian jumped with tomahawk uplifted to dispatch his unarmed neighbor. Before he reached him, Nicholas had reloaded, and with equal dexterity unloaded his trusty rifle in the head of the wily warrior. At another time, while hunting, he espied an Indian some distance up the creek, quietly fishing, and being a good marksman and fond of game, his rifle, he said, was pointed that way and it went off, but he never went to see if he hit him.

At the time Warner settled here in 1764, he built a "barrack," near the house, in which he stored hay and grain, as was the custom among the first settlers, they being too poor to build barns. They were constructed by placing four posts in the ground forming a square, and running high enough to admit a good sized stack. Upon the top of the posts was placed a roof made of boards, or, in their absence poles, and thatched with straw or evergreen boughs. Many built the roof so as to be raised or lowered, at will, to give better protection to the products. This "barrack" was burned the day of the battle, and the unburned posts were left by the owner and his sons who followed him, as memorials of that disastrous day. After a lapse of one hundred and ten years, Mr. Isaac Mann, a great-grandson, cut a piece from one of those posts, which he now uses as a ruler. It is sound and lithe as a lately cut stick. Mr. Mann has also the Warner High Dutch Bible which George, Sr., brought over with him from Germany. The cover is of board and very heavy leather. It is well bound, neatly printed, and profusely illustrated. In comparing them with the fine steel cuts that embellish the Bibles of to-day, or of this work, one is struck with the advancement art has made. While the family were scattered hither and thither—now homeless—terror-stricken and despondent, so many times through their life-struggles—they clung to the old Bible and brought it through all calamities unhurt. As we turned its yellow, clumsy leaves, this thought struck us—of all the family relics, the "Old Bible" stands pre-eminent! "It was grandfather's," or my "great-grandfather's," or, perhaps, it was "mother's, and she gave it to me!" Holy instructor—always bound to us by holy associations! A brutish spirit indeed it must be,

that would refuse to cling to it with deep reverence!

Capt. George W. Snyder.—Crossing over the valley we come to the grave of one to whom honor is due. Beneath a plain, yet substantial monument, lies the soldier, and upon it we read upon the west side:—

LIEUT. GEO. W. SNYDER,

BORN AT COBLESKILL,

JULY 30, 1833.

DIED AT WASHINGTON, D. C.,

NOV. 17, 1861.

And upon the east:—

ONE OF THE GALLANT DEFENDERS OF FORT
SUMTER.

Upon the north:—

A GRADUATE OF UNION COLLEGE, ALSO OF THE
MILITARY ACADEMY OF WEST POINT, WITH
THE HIGHEST HONORS OF HIS CLASS.

And on the south:—

AIDE-DE-CAMP OF GENERAL HEINTZELMAN,
AT THE BATTLE OF BULL RUN.

George W. Snyder was the son of William Snyder, and great-grandson of the old patriot, Nicholas Warner.

He commenced attending the district school at Cobleskill village at the age of four years, and was so diligent in his studies and apt in learning, that within one week he learned his letters. The same characteristics were noticeable through his whole life, and placed him at the head of everything in which he enlisted his energies.

We scarce meet with one whose onward course was as progressive as George W. Snyder's, or with one whose demise draws upon our sympathies more, as in him we could but see a still greater and nobler career drawing towards him through his energetic, studious and amiable life. At the age of ten he was sent to the Schoharie Academy, and from there to Franklin, Delaware county, and Cherry Valley successively, and returned to Schoharie to prepare for Union

College, which he entered in the year 1850, at the age of seventeen.

Remaining there but two years, he received his diplomas as "Majistré" and "Baccalaurie," in July, 1852, and entered the military school at West Point a few months after, where he redoubled his energies and received his first recommendation from the officers of the school to the President, from whom he was honored by promotion as Brevet Second Lieutenant of the Corps of Engineers, on the 1st of July, 1856, signed by Franklin Pierce, and his secretary, Jefferson Davis. On the 21st of August following, he was raised in his class by the same to Second Lieutenant, and promoted by President James Buchanan, to First Lieutenant, on the 1st of July, 1860. His commission from President Lincoln, as Captain, was given on the 14th of April, 1861, and on the 21st of July following, he was honored by another certificate, signed by President Abraham Lincoln and his secretary, Simon Cameron, promoting him to the rank of Major, "For gallant and meritorious services in the Manassas campaign." A few days before he died he was honored by the appointment of Colonel, by President Lincoln. While acting as First Lieutenant under Major Anderson, he was with the gallant company that held Fort Sumter against the misguided Carolinians, and it was through exposure and the use of unwholesome food and water, that he was attacked with a diarrhoea which became chronic, and closed his life upon the 17th of November, 1861.

Upon the evacuation of Fort Sumter, Snyder reported at Washington, and immediately commenced actual field services. He had charge of the landing of the first troops at Annapolis, and was in General Heintzelman's staff at the battle of Bull Run, and brought off the last of our troops from the field in good order.

The *New York Times*, in its issue of November 22, said of him:—

"Zealous and unflinching in the discharge of his duties—no matter how disagreeable they might be—he overtasked his body and fell an easy prey to the fever which ended his career. His former comrades in arms, mourn in him the loss of one of the brightest ornaments of

their profession, and his country has lost the services of an upright, fearless and devoted officer."

The progenitor of this Snyder family was William Snyder, who came from the Helleberg before the Revolution, and during that struggle acted as a militia man and home guard.

He married a daughter of George Warner, Sr., and settled upon the farm now owned and occupied by Sylvester McDonald, where he began in 1800 to "keep tavern," the main road to Schenectady running upon that side of the creek. Their children were Peter W., and Maria, the latter a wife of Henry Mann.

Peter W., married a daughter of Nicholas Warner, to whom one child was born, William, the father of Captain George W. Snyder.

WARNERVILLE.

This little hamlet was formerly and for many years known as "Mann's Valley," after the family of Captain George Mann, of Schoharie, who removed to this place in 1786. The Captain had five sons and four daughters, who at one time lived near with families, and made quite a settlement of their own.

Their names were:—

Peter,
Henry,
Philip,
Jacob,
Abram,
Betsy, (Mrs. Colyer.)
Catharine,
Christina, (Mrs. Jacob Kromer,)
Lana, (Mrs. Adam A. Shaver.)

Peter's children were:—

Ex-Sheriff Henry Mann,
Isaac,
Abram,
George,
Mrs. Calkins.

Henry's children were:—

Alexander,
William H.,
George L.,
David,
Mrs. Henry Mann,

Mrs. Ephraim Warner,
Catharine.

Philip's children were:—

Tobias,
Mrs. Jeremiah Richtmyer.

Abram's children were:—

Mrs. Peter Hilts,
Alexander,
David S.,
Mrs. Fuller,
Abram,
George,
Judson,
William,
Miss Etta.

Peter was the oldest son and kept the first tavern west of Cobleskill, which stood nearly opposite of Alexander Larkin's residence. Here he catered to the wants of the community and traveling public for many years, and after closing up his business, his brother Henry opened quite an extensive establishment between Segar & Mann's store and the blacksmith shop, south, and followed the business a long time. But the whole has been cleared away and not a trace of the old familiar haunt remains. The name of the place was afterwards changed to Cobleskill Centre, and still later to its present name of Warnerville. When the plank road was in operation and for some time before, the little hamlet presented a lively appearance as a farmers' business centre, but the railroad drew a veil over its prosperity and wasted the attractions, all down to the village of Cobleskill, leaving Warnerville quiet. The postoffice was established in 1831 as "Mann's Valley" and Abram Mann received the appointment as postmaster, and kept the office in Henry Mann's Inn.

The tannery that is now owned by Jarvis Peak was built about the year 1834, by Joseph W. Courter, and afterwards purchased by Henry Webb. It was quite an extensive concern for several years and added much to the business interest of the place.

There were for many years two hotels found here, but fire laid them in ashes, and at present a former private house is occupied as such, but

the custom that for years made the business paying, ceased with the life of road travel.

Churches.—The present Methodist church was organized in 1840, and the edifice built in 1848. Its pastorate is connected with that of Cobleskill.

The Christian Church was organized in 1846 by the veteran John Ross, of Charlestown, with a membership of eleven. The house of worship was built the same year and repaired in 1870. The pulpit has been supplied by other churches, until the organization of the Richmondville Christian Society, where one regular pastor officiates in both.

Seminary.—During the "Seminary epidemic" of 1850 and 1854 that swept over the country and excited the usual steady minds of the people, and made sad havoc with the accumulation of years of economy and industry, the citizens of this place erected a fine edifice for the accommodation of two hundred boarding pupils.

It is very pleasantly situated and has all the conveniences necessary for a first-class institution.

It was erected in 1853 at a cost of thirty thousand dollars, and was opened in the fall of that year with ——— Douglass as principal, and a corps of twelve assistants. Not proving successful the institution was closed and remained so until November, 1861, when a school was commenced with Chester C. Thorne as principal, under the title of *Union Literary Institute*. The course of instruction embraced the essential branches of a thorough and accomplished English and classical education. The school continued one year and one-half and closed.

The building remained vacant until the year 1870, when Prof. Dean Smith refurnished it, and commenced the school as "Dean's College" but after a trial of eighteen months, Prof. Smith's efforts proved futile to make it a self-sustaining enterprise, and the building was once more abandoned for school purposes, and it has stood idle since. It is but a grim monument to inexperience and people's folly.

The first grist-mill in the town was built back of George M. Warner's residence, by

David Lawyer, immediately after the Revolution. His son Lambert occupied the farm in after years, but was not the Lambert Lawyer of Cobleskill, as supposed by many. The latter was an uncle of the former Lambert.

RICHMONDVILLE.

In drawing near Richmondville one is struck with the location of the village for manufacturing purposes. Perhaps the steady rumbling of mills and earnest hammer strokes awaken our mechanical genius, and lure the mind down to the massive reservoirs that obstruct the streams of lesser flow, throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts and hold back the water to enable the largest mills to run incessantly the year round and give employment to thousands of laborers. There is not a more attractive spot in the County for such enterprises than is found here. There are at present one flour and two provender mills, two saw, one paper and two cider mills, a sash and blind factory, one woolen mill, a machine shop and foundry, one grain cradle and two cloth drier manufacturies, each and all doing a good business. There are also harness, blacksmith, cooper and shoe shops in abundance driven by the sinewy arms of the industrious people.

The *Richmondville paper-mill* was established in 1865 by Westover & Foster and is capable of running three tons of coarse straw paper per day.

The first grist-mill was built upon the site of John Weller's present mill, by Asa Bailey in 1807. The present one has three run of stone and is capable of grinding five hundred bushels per day.

Nearly eighty years ago, some one unknown to our informant, Mr. M. N. Bradley, built a small mill for fulling cloth upon the site of the present one. A few years after a carding machine was attached. The cloth was fulled only, it being taken to a small log house near and sheared by hand. In 1837 it became the property of Milo Bradley, of Barnerville, and under his and sons' management it became an important enterprise of the place. In 1872 Mr. M. N. Bradley put in a full set of machinery for manufacturing all kinds of domestic

goods, which has added still more to the value of the property as well as convenience for the rural surroundings. From eight thousand to ten thousand pounds of wool are carded yearly and nearly an equal number of yards of cloth manufactured.

Richmondville Iron Works.—The foundry was first built by William Wood and for many years owned and managed by his son Henry Wood in the manufacture of plows and fixtures, stoves, scrapers, engine fixtures and all other articles common to a country foundry. It is at present under the management of A. B. Stevens and bids fair to reach a high standard among the shops of the valley.

The present business of the works will average at least from twenty to twenty-five tons of castings yearly, employing from six to eight workmen.

The first hotel to accommodate the traveling public in the village was kept by George Dox, where the Westover house now stands, about the year 1795. Dox was a son of George Dox who came from Germany before the Revolution, and settled below the Hellebergh, and after the war closed, at Richmondville. His sons were George, Michael, John and Jacob. The family living at Beard's Hollow are those of Michael, who settled there in 1802. Following Dox in the inn was Ezra Ackley in 1804, upon the ground now occupied by the residence of Mrs. Felton. The third keeper of the house was John Warner, son of George Warner, Jr., who was appointed the first postmaster upon the establishment of the office at this place in 1825. Nearly one year ago we visited Mrs. John Warner,* at the residence of her son-in-law, James Harroway, and although eighty-seven long and eventful years had passed over her head, we found her still active and communicative.

She was a daughter of the late John Spraker, of Palatine-on-the-Mohawk. We find the "boys" of those days would "a wooing go" away from home, as now, and to judge by the outlines of Mrs. Warner's face, her husband

had an eye to beauty as well as intelligence. We love to sit by such aged ones, whose lives have been busy and eventful, and listen to them, when their minds are as clear and strong as hers. We find many as old, but their memories are but slender threads uniting the past with the present, and much worn by Time's vibrations and too weak to tell any but wandering tales.

First Justice of the Peace.—Mr. — Norcutt was the first justice of the peace in the old town of Cobleskill, and received his appointment in 1805. He was succeeded by Asa Bailey in 1809. Norcutt and Bailey both died in that year, and Jonah Westover, who removed from Berkshire county, Mass., in 1808, was appointed to the office, and held it until the year 1829, when he was succeeded by his son, Hon. John Westover, who held the office to the year 1863. In 1834 he was honored by the appointment of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, which office he held thirteen years. He was associated with John C. Wright and Charles Goodyear. In 1835 he represented the town of Cobleskill in the Board of Supervisors, and in 1853 was elected to the Assembly, where his exertions were enlisted in giving birth to the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad project, in which he took a deep interest, and became one of the leaders of the enterprise. He has repeatedly been chosen one of its directors, and in that position as elsewhere, has exhibited that strict business characteristic which has been prominent throughout his life, and made him one of the County's foremost men.

Mr. Westover was born in Berkshire county, Mass., in 1797, and still exhibits an unusually sagacious mind, and the same extraordinary vim for business as in younger years. We find very few, comparatively, that make life a success. We do not mean in accumulating wealth, but in making themselves useful and exemplary, doing much for the public good, and trustworthy. In every position, both public and private, Mr. Westover has shown the same indomitable energy to act wisely, and the present firm and substantial business of the place are the fruits of his spirit.

* She has since died.

First Mail Carrier.—A man by the name of Webb living at West Richmondville was the first mail carrier to this place over ten years previous to the establishment of the postoffice. He brought the newspapers from Cobleskill on horseback, and at a late date carried the mail as far as Unadilla, and was known as Deacon Webb. Whether his strict religious life gave him the appellation, or it was "honorary," for his ease in calling so often upon his Maker, when behind time, as mail carriers usually do, we are unable to say. Poor horse-ridden Webb little thought as he sat perched upon his trusty charger with a small mail bag strapped "on behind" that before he was forgotten, a screeching, puffing monster would wind along the sides of these hills, with a long snake-like train

"Singing through the forest
Rattling over ridges,
Shooting under arches
Rumbling over bridges,"

appearing and disappearing in less time than he could seat himself in the saddle and chirp "gee up."

However, Webb caught the spirit of improvement and carried the mail in a one-horse wagon. He continued the business about twenty-five years, and gave up the reins to Oliver Bass, who put a coach upon the route through to Albany. Many who are now living, well remember as the old yellow and red "Rocking coach" drove up to the door, how perfect every arrangement seemed to be, and with what ease and comfort a trip to Albany or Binghamton could be made in the short space of ten or twelve hours.

Physicians.—In 1812 Dr. John Nichols settled in the village and was the first regular practicing physician. He died in 1819 and his remains lie in the Methodist cemetery. A vacancy being made upon his death, the people made a call on the Medical School of New York for a physician in March, 1820.

Dr. Thomas B. Van Alstyne, a native of Kinderhook, N. Y., and a student of the noted Dr. White, of Hudson, N. Y., was sent in answer to the above request, who continued to practice to the year 1856, and reared a family of six children, each of whom have made themselves worthy of a worthy father, and become prominent and useful citizens.

Thomas J., is a resident of Albany, and has occupied the county judicial bench for two terms, highly satisfactory as a gentleman and an able jurist. He was elected at the late election to the United States Congress, and takes his seat in December, 1883.

Sylvester M. Van Alstyne followed his father in the practice of medicine, and stood at the head of the medical fraternity in the County. He represented the town in the Board of Supervisors in the years 1862, 1863, 1864, 1875, 1876, where he displayed the ability of a legislator, that very few possess. He died October 28, 1882.

We give space to the following article from the *Richmondville Democrat*, of October 28, 1882:—

"In the death of Dr. S. M. Van Alstyne, Richmondville loses one of its most worthy citizens. Dr. Van Alstyne was born on the 28th day of February, 1833. He had the full advantages of a complete education, and was always regarded as one of the most learned in our community. At the early age of seventeen he received an appointment to the military academy of West Point. During his stay at that institution his peculiar brilliancy and education placed him at the head of his class, which exalted position he maintained until, submitting to the very urgent solicitations of his parents, he resigned his position at West Point and chose the study of medicine as his profession, graduating with high honors at the Albany Medical College, December 2, 1854. He was a member of the Schoharie County Medical Society, also of the New York State Medical Society. As a physician he occupied a position which can only be obtained by a thorough study, and application to one's chosen profession. He was selected by his townsmen to represent them in the Board of Supervisors for five years, discharging the duties pertaining to this office to their utmost satisfaction.

"He was married on the 9th of July, 1855, to Cynthia E. Whitney, daughter of Colonel Whitney, of Milford, N. Y. He leaves a wife, one son—Dr. T. B. Van Alstyne, of Richmondville, and two daughters—Mrs. Dr. Voorhees, of Auburn, N. Y., and Miss Adah Van Alstyne, of Richmondville.

"Dr. Van Alstyne was a conscientious Christian, a true gentleman, a kind husband, and loving father. His death will be a great loss to this community, and his genial presence and kindly recognitions will be missed by all. We can pay no higher tribute to the memory of our distinguished friend, neighbor and physician than to say that a great, grand and noble christian man has gone to his rest."

Fayette E., became a mechanic and settled at Binghamton where he now resides.

John studied medicine and commenced to practice in 1865, and remained till the year 1873, when he removed to Binghamton, where he still resides, and stands at the head of his profession. He received, very shortly after graduating in 1862, a commission as assistant-surgeon of the 3d N. Y. V. C., was soon promoted to surgeon of the regiment, and toward close of the war was made brigade surgeon.

Mrs. Joseph K. Barry, [deceased,] of Chicago, and Mrs. J. L. Multer, of the *Independent Calistogian*, of California, are the daughters that complete the family of six, whose early training in the principles of right and usefulness have made them an honor to the place of their birth.

Dr. Thomas Skinner located here in 1833, and after removed to Hartwick and died near Syracuse in 1879. J. B. Rossman came in 1840 and remained till 1850 when he located at Albany.

Dr. Henry Barnes was in practice here some years. Dr. Valentine Cornell came in 1865 and removed to Cobleskill village in 1874, where he died in 1877.

Dr. Atkins came in 1874 and the year following located at Saratoga village, and thence to Essex, N. Y., where he enjoys a lucrative practice.

Dr. George H. Leonard, of East Worcester located here in 1858 and entered the Union army in 1863 as assistant surgeon and died of consumption soon after.

Dr. Thomas B. Van Alstyne, grandson of the first Thomas B., opened an office in June, 1881, and at present is the only physician practicing in the village. He is the only male representative of the Van Alstyne family now residing in the county, and bids fair to maintain the enviable reputation acquired by his ancestors.

Dr. Rowley settled at Warnerville about 1832 and died there in 1846 and was succeeded

by Dr. Jared Chase in 1850 and Dr. Eli Bois & Son in 1854. The elder Bois died in 1857 and Willard succeeded him and still remains. Dr. H. S. Gale removed from West Fulton in the spring of 1881, who together with Doctors Chase and Bois attend to the "ills" of their friends.

Churches—Here we find four churches whose appearance bespeak the enterprise of the people as well as their pride in their houses of worship.

The Methodist Church is the pioneer, it being organized in 1820 by John Bangs.

Their meetings were held in the school house until the year 1836 when an edifice was erected. The present one was built in 1866 and will seat nearly seven hundred. A prosperous Sabbath School and large Bible class are sustained by the society and a deep interest in the religious cause is manifested by the church as a whole.

The Lutheran Church was organized in 1830 and the first edifice erected in 1833. The present one was built in 1857, being repaired and enlarged in 1876, and will seat over six hundred. The records have not been preserved in such order as to enable us to glean the desired information but we find John Selemer was the first pastor and after a few years was recalled and died in 1876, at the age of sixty-nine.

He was followed by Ira Parker, P. Ludden, S. Curtis, Charles L. Barringer and Jacob Paul, the latter at present officiating.

There is also connected with this church a large Sabbath School and Bible class in whose behalf the society takes a lively interest.

The Baptist Church was next in organization and was formed in 1838 by twenty-six members.

The records say, "At a council held in Richmondville on the 13th of June 1838 by the delegates from the Baptist churches in Summit, Jefferson, Worcester, Westford, Cobleskill, Fulton and Harpersfield, it was thought proper to constitute a Baptist church in the above mentioned place to be called the 'Richmondville Baptist Church'. A constitution was drawn up embracing articles of confession, Faith and practice and entered upon the church-book, which tersely exhibits the sincerity, stability and character of professors of that day.

"At a covenant meeting held September 11, 1841, Elder Walter Covey was appointed

a committee to prepare an article on Temperance which he did and attached it to the church articles of Practice. It being the first move by the body in the cause we here copy the same. "We believe that intemperance is a great evil and therefore we will not use intoxicating liquors as a beverage, nor traffic in them nor provide them as an article of entertainment, or for persons in our employment and that we will discountenance their use throughout the community."

The following Elders have officiated:—

- 1838—David B. Collins.
- 1839—James Ingles.
- 1840—Walter Covey.
- 1841—Walter Covey.
- 1842—L. C. Bates.
- 1843—L. C. Bates.
- 1844—L. C. Bates.
- 1845—L. C. Bates.
- 1846—L. C. Bates.
- 1847—L. C. Bates.
- 1849—W. Covey.
- 1850—L. E. Spafford.
- 1851—L. E. Spafford.
- 1852—L. E. Spafford.
- 1853—A. S. Davis.
- 1854—A. S. Davis.
- 1855—A. S. Davis.
- 1856—George Evans.
- 1857—George Evans.
- 1858—George Evans.
- 1859—C. C. Boorne.
- 1860—C. C. Boorne.
- 1861—C. C. Boorne.
- 1862—C. C. Boorne.
- 1863—C. C. Boorne.
- 1866—W. M. Halleck.
- 1867—W. M. Halleck.
- 1868—W. M. Halleck.
- 1869—W. M. Halleck.
- 1871—P. C. Bently.
- 1872—P. C. Bently.
- 1873—G. W. Remington.
- 1874—G. W. Remington.
- 1875—G. W. Remington.
- 1876—G. W. Remington.
- 1877—G. W. Remington.
- 1878—D. B. Collins.

1879—D. B. Collins.

1880—O. W. Cook.

1881—R. Lehman and present.

The first church edifice was built in 1843.

Richmondville Bank—Mr. Westover, for many years, feeling the inconvenience of having no bank to transact business in a systematic manner, with his ample means established a banking house which was opened for the convenience of the business public on the first day of April 1881.

J. M. Foster long interested in the business of the place, was associated in the enterprise, making the firm Westover & Foster, Bankers. The business men of the village and surrounding country fully appreciate the convenience, and assure their confidence, in a flattering patronage.

Christian Church—The Christian church was built in 1875 at a cost of twenty-five hundred dollars and dedicated on the 4th of January 1876 under the pastorate of A. J. Welton, who was followed by T. N. Davis and D. M. Tuller, the present incumbent. This church, as before mentioned is connected in pastorate with the "Christian church of Warnerville."

Seminary—In the spring of 1852 the citizens of this place concluded to make a permanent investment of a few thousand dollars in one of those palatial seminaries to which many communities, suddenly become partial. During the summer of that year a building was erected upon the lot, now occupied by James N. Burnison and school commenced in the fall under very flattering circumstances.

One night in December of the same year an incendiary laid the whole in ashes, which was a heavy stroke to the stockholders.

But believing in the wisdom of the investment a similar building was built the season following and opened for patronage in the fall of 1853. The success of this institution was considered certain, but in 1854 the second structure was burned and after an expenditure of nearly sixty thousand dollars, further efforts to rebuild were abandoned.

Newspapers.—The first paper published was the *Schoharie County Democrat*, by the proprietors of the *Schenectady Monitor*, J. J. & J. L. Multer. The issue bears date November 5, 1870. The paper was purchased in 1876 by J. B. Olmstead and its title changed to the *Richmondville Democrat*. Mr. Olmstead has steadily improved the paper and made of it a neat, readable and newsy sheet that fully deserves its success.

District Schools.—At what time the first schoolhouse was built we have not been able to learn, but it is supposed about the year 1807.

The present school building was erected in 1865. It is a graded school, having become such under the charge of George Ostrander. Three teachers are employed with an average of over one-hundred pupils. The studies are the higher English branches, and no pains or expense are spared to make it a first-class school. J. E. Mann is the present principal.

The road leading to the west follows the course of the Cobleskill and winds around the lofty hills, that the waters have broken through, presenting to the traveler a varied and pleasing picture. The broad fields lying upon the hill-sides are productive of both winter grain and grasses, and well adapted for dairying purposes, being well watered. Snugly located a short distance above the village is William Rockerfellow, grandson of Captain Rockerfellow, of Revolutionary fame.

Mr. Rockerfellow's father moved from Columbia county upon "Dutch Hill" in 1812. The family bearing that name, of the Schoharie valley, originally belong to the same descendants of brothers who emigrated from Germany at an early day. Mr. Rockerfellow's success in the accumulation of property is an example of what the *will* can perform if aggravated to work under unfavorable circumstances, and is worthy to be here recorded. During his boyhood days, he was both uncouth in appearance and dissipated in habits, having allowed himself to be drifted along without care, by the universal custom of the valley in fighting, horse-racing, gambling and dancing. Peter Foland was the keeper of the "Inn" that is now

Kennedy's wagon-shop in Cobleskill village, and he had a daughter Elizabeth, who awakened Rockerfellow's inward soul, and which the father forbade the daughter, to countenance. But their sympathies were mutual, and after being driven away several times, with the idea of the old gentleman's opinion of him firmly impressed, the young lover firmly decided to change his course in life and show the family that he was neither lazy or intemperate. Changing his whole course of conduct he began in earnest, with eyes and ears opened to every opportunity, to gain a livelihood independent of his family or persecutors. Gaining here and there, with care and industry, we now find him upon the verge of seventy with a large property, and by his side is found one happy in her choice and surroundings, knowing that their combined efforts have brought William's prophesy true, that "they could see the day they could buy the whole of them out."

WEST RICHMONDVILLE.

West Richmondville is a small hamlet near the county line, and comprises a small Methodist church which was built in 1865, a blacksmith shop and a few dwellings. It was originally known as Caryleville, but upon the post-office being established it was changed to its present name.

The first settlers of this neighborhood were Cornelius Ten Eyck and his son Bornt, John, Moses and Isaac Caryle, John Lampson, Madison Skinner, Joel Bates, Isaac White, John Houck, George Jones and Robert Smith, (the latter from Dutchess county,) whose son Solomon still lives upon the old place, at the age of seventy-five, in the vigor of early life. Asa Foster settled about the year 1816; Isaac Caryle built a distillery about the year 1810, and run the same to 1820, also a store. The lands not then occupied, around this place were purchased in 1815, by Stephen Jumel, the husband of the renowned Madame Jumel. Owing to the fact of Jumel's property causing a long litigation, we will here state the circumstances and give a sketch of Mr. Jumel's life, as written by Mr. J. G. Caryle, of Brooklyn, N. Y., who lived with Mr. Jumel and was well acquainted

with the family affairs. A settlement of the litigation, we believe was due to Mr. Caryle's testimony in the case. Mr. Caryle was born near West Richmondville, in 1813. He says:—

"I first became acquainted with Madame Jumel of New York city in the town of Sharon, Schoharie county in 1826. My father then lived upon lands owned by Stephen Jumel, a Frenchman of the Kingdom of France, City of Paris. He had been a resident of New York city from the year 1795 until the year 1815 when he returned to France. Mr. Jumel left France when a young man and took up his residence in the Island of St. Domingo that being at the time a French province. He then engaged in trade and run a coffee plantation up to 1793 when at the uprising of the Blacks, and extermination of the Whites, Mr. Jumel made his escape in the following manner. He had an old colored man living with him who was very much attached to Mr. Jumel, who told him of the approaching insurrection which Jumel did not credit at the time, but from observation he finally concluded to make the best shift possible and wait the result. He gathered in all the coffee and spices he could and loaded a brig and consigned the cargo to a firm in New York. When the time came, the black man took Jumel in the mountains and secreted him in the rocks, stating that if the blacks did not rise as represented and the town not burned then Jumel could return, but if the blacks rebelled, then he must look out for himself. The result was the Whites were massacred and the place burned.

"Jumel remained in the mountains for several days, and the black not making his appearance and being a good swimmer, swam across the bay to a small island where he subsisted for several days on such barks and grapes as he could collect. After many days a sail made for the port and finding the place burned, did make a landing, supposing there was something wrong. Mr. Jumel with his garments signaled the vessel and a boat was sent and took him in. Learning the state of affairs from him they put to sea for St. Helena where Jumel shipped for France, and arrived in New York the year following. With what money he left in New York and the proceeds of his cargo of coffee etc. he commenced trade and became a heavy ship-

ping merchant, and during the time of the embargo, made, through the importation of French brandy and wines a fortune, amounting to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which was, in that day considered ample.

"It was during that success he became acquainted with Eliza Bowne a beautiful young woman from Providence, R. I. whom he married and who became the noted Madame Jumel. In 1809 or '10 Mr. Jumel retired from business in part and bought a fine property at Washington Heights and moved to it, from Whitehall street. All things not running smoothly—or to Mr. Jumel's liking, in 1815 he left for France taking with him an adopted daughter—a niece of Madame Jumel. He kept the girl in France seven years and educated her in the French schools, when Madame went over and returned with the niece to New York in 1826. She had a power of attorney from Mr. Jumel to take charge of affairs in New York for the benefit of her husband.

"Under the power of attorney, Madame Jumel sold in 1827, the entire estate of Jumel, embracing several hundred acres in the town of Sharon, (now Richmondville and Seward,) Decatur and Worcester, Otsego county."

The town of Richmondville consists of 19,844 acres of land, with an assessed valuation in 1880, of \$442,700, and a population of 2,119 inhabitants. Bonds were issued to aid in the construction of the railroad to the amount of \$50,000, upon which there remained due \$14,552. This amount was raised by special tax in 1881, and the debt liquidated. Total amount of town expenses in 1879, was \$824.50. Total amount of tax, including interest on bonds, \$5,844.04.

SUPERVISORS.

- 1849—Peter H. Warner.
- 1850—Peter H. Warner.
- 1851—Thomas B. Van Alstyne.
- 1852—David Mann.
- 1853—David Mann.
- 1854—William Snyder.
- 1855—William Snyder.
- 1856—Tobias Mann.
- 1857—Tobias Mann.
- 1858—Tobias Mann.
- 1859—Tobias Mann.

- 1860—Dr. Jared Chase.
 1861—Dr. Jared Chase.
 1862—Dr. S. M. Van Alstyne.
 1863—Dr. S. M. Van Alstyne.
 1864—Dr. Sylvester M. Van Alstyne.
 1865—Dr. Jared Chase.
 1866—William T. La Mont.
 1867—William T. La Mont.
 1868—James A. Warner.
 1869—James A. Warner.
 1870—John Westover.
 1871—James Harroway.
 1872—James Harroway.
 1873—James Harroway.
 1874—James Harroway.
 1875—Dr. S. M. Van Alstyne.
 1876—Dr. S. M. Van Alstyne.
 1877—Fred Moot.
 1878—Fred Moot.
 1879—Samuel Butler.
 1880—Thomas W. Zeh, Jr.
 1881—Dr. Jared Chase.
 1882—Samuel Butler.

The following items were furnished through the kindness of J. B. Olmstead, Esq. :—

The village of Richmondville was incorporated in 1881, and is now officered by a Board of three trustees, police justice, constable, collector, etc.

There was organized in this town, in 1882, a Board of Health in accordance with the law. Dr. H. S. Gale, of Warnerville, is the present Health officer, and H. S. Lewis, Town clerk, is Registrar of Vital Statistics.

Cemeteries.—Situated near the village are two cemeteries, the "Sunnyside" and "Rural." They are both organized and incorporated. Both have fine grounds, being laid out very tastily, and many of the lots are adorned with handsome monuments.

Water Power Company.—Lying upon the hills south of the village are two large reservoirs. These are now owned and controlled by an incorporated company, the stock being owned by the various manufacturers. This is one of the most important institutions in town, and the company will doubtless soon build another reservoir, and then the supply of water will be unfailing and sufficient to run any manufacturing enterprise that desires water-power.

School.—The village school is now in a very flourishing condition. There are three teachers employed, and it has two departments. The teachers are :—Prof. C. Northrup, principal; Misses E. Evans and Ella La Mont, assistants. The Board of Education consists of three members, viz :—Freeman Loveland, William T. LaMont and E. L. Snyder.

The following is a list of the various persons engaged in business in the town :—

Richmondville.

Bank of Richmondville, John Westover, president, James M. Foster, cashier; organized in 1880.
 H. Frasier & Son, general merchants.
 Wm. T. LaMont, groceries and feed.

Robinson & Fox, general merchants.
 Holmes & Drew, general merchants.
 Nathan Hogeboom, dry-goods and notions.
 J. C. Smith, groceries, boots and shoes, flour and feed.
 Mary Babcock, millinery store.
 Thomas L. Shafer, jewelry store.
 David H. Smith, hardware, stoves and tinware.
 R. F. Royal, hardware, stoves and tinware.
 G. W. Ostrander, drugs and hardware.
 M. W. Harroway, flour, feed and coal.
 H. S. Lewis, furniture and undertaking.
 Thomas W. Zeh, meat market.
 H. M. Sheldon, oysters, fish and vegetables.
 T. B. Warner, photographer and general insurance agent.
 D. B. Van Dusen, hay dealer.
 John M. Campbell, dealer in horses, wagons, and revolving horse-rakes, etc.
 Ed. Fox, poultry dealer.
 Richmondville Manufacturing Co., Hiram Couchman, proprietor, grain cradles, forks, etc.
 Milo H. Bradley, manufacturer of domestic woolen goods, cloth, yarns, fulled mittens, etc.
 Richmondville Iron Works, A. B. Stevens, proprietor, hop-drying furnaces, plows, water-wheels, etc.
 C. E. Dickinson, manufacturer of straw paper.
 Mosher Brothers, flouring mill.
 Westover & Olendorf, sash, blinds and doors.
 S. P. Canfield, clothes dryers and box blueing.
 Samuel Hannis, manufacturer of hop-presses.
 Henry Brazee, wagon and carriage maker.
 John Neer, wagon and carriage maker.
 Decker & Co., manufacturers and refiners of cider.
 D. G. Mann & Co., fruit evaporators.
 James L. Munn, harness maker.
 Charles B. Brown, harness maker, robes, whips, etc.
 William Hilsinger, horse-shoeing and general blacksmithing.
 John C. Biret, horse-shoeing and blacksmithing.
 James H. Leggett, horse-shoeing and blacksmithing.
 Wm. Ockempaugh, horse-shoeing and blacksmithing.
 J. Skidmore, cooper.
 R. G. Waldorf, cooper.
 Alex. Rury, boot and shoe maker.
 Rockefeller & Richtmyer, dealers in eggs and hides.
 Matthew O'Rorke, bread and cake baker.
 Menzo Waldorf, barber.
 Isaac Mann, surveyor.
 E. L. Snyder, lawyer, surveyor, and insurance agent.
 P. Wheaton Sheldon, fire insurance agent.
 Westover House, (a fine three-story brick building,) L. & L. D. Mattice, proprietors.
 Empire House, (billiard-room and restaurant attached,) Alvin Wharton, proprietor.
 Cottage Hotel, Peter Snyder, proprietor.
 Burneson's House, James N. Burneson, proprietor; livery in connection; is proprietor of stage-route running between here and Jefferson, Schoharie county, N. Y., and also carries the United States mail to same place.
 Railroad House, H. J. Heiseradt, proprietor.

Warnerville.

David H. Zeh, groceries.
 Gerves F. Peck, tanner.
 John Frederick, woodenware manufacturer, miller, etc. (Steam power.)
 David Snyder, flouring mill.
 David S. Mann, dealer in stoves,
West Richmondville.
 David F. Richtmyer, wagon maker.
 — Baldwin, groceries.
 — Robinson, horse-shoeing, etc.
 Charles Isham, saw-mill.



J. Weston

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

HON. JOHN WESTOVER.

Hon. John Westover, son of the late Jonah Westover, was born in the town of Egremont, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, on the 8th of July, 1797. In the year 1808 he removed to Schoharie County with his parents, and located where the village of Richmondville now stands, when the grounds and surroundings were covered with the forest. This portion of the County being new and the settlement very sparse, it must be supposed that the pioneer school was of an inferior grade, and the chances for a youth to obtain an education extremely discouraging. Yet regardless of adverse circumstances and privileges, many of the best men of our country have loomed up from such positions, through their indomitable will and energy, and became what they were and are.

The subject of this sketch is an example of a self-made man. By studious efforts, he was enabled to enter the school-room at the age of eighteen as teacher, and followed the avocation most of the time to the year 1824, when, with his meager savings, he purchased a part of the farm upon which he still resides, of Governor Yates. The Governor owned a large tract of land lying here, through tax sales, and in 1825 appointed Judge Westover his agent in the sale and renting of the same, which trust he held nearly forty years, to the satisfaction of the Governor and his heirs. It was upon a visit in connection with business relating to these lands, that Mr. Westover enjoyed the pleasing honor

of being one of the sixteen that rode upon the first passenger railroad cars in the United States in 1831, between Albany and Schenectady. He sat by the side of Governor Yates in the center seat of the front car, or stage-coach body placed upon truck-wheels. The Governor commissioned him Captain in the militia service, under the old military law, from which he was promoted to Colonel of then 113th Regiment.

He was elected by the people of the old town of Cobleskill, in 1829, justice of the peace, and filled the position in that town and the town of Richmondville, for the long period of thirty-eight years. He succeeded in his first election, his brother, Jonah Westover, Jr., who held the office twenty-one years, making fifty-nine years the office was held in the family, a case unparalleled in the history of the County.

Under the Constitution of 1821, Governor Marcy appointed him in August, 1838, to the bench of the Court of Common Pleas, as associate with Hon. John C. Wright, Jonas Krum, Robert Eldredge, Harvey Watson, and Nathan P. Tyler.

Upon the election of William C. Bouck, as Governor, the honor was again bestowed upon him, and held to the year 1846, when the Third Constitution took effect, and abolished the office of Assistant Judges. In 1853 Judge Westover was elected to the Assembly, where he turned his attention and labors towards the building of the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad, in which

he became a Director, and one of the managing spirits in its construction as he was in its inception, in unison with Hon. J. H. Ramsey, Charles Courter, Eliakim R. Ford, and others.

Judge Westover has always, from a youth, been identified with and a strong advocate of public improvements. When the Democratic party, to which through life, he has been attached, divided, as Democrats and Clintonians upon the internal improvement questions, he sided with the Clintonians for a time, and demonstrated his sincerity by favoring every project that had a tendency to the development and progress of the country without extravagant taxation. For several years he bent his efforts to the building of a railroad through the County. The first was by a special charter from the Legislature in 1836, in which he was appointed a director with Jedediah Miller and others, in the construction of a railroad to connect the Catskill & Canajoharie road with the Erie. For that, and other projects of improvement, he was chided by conservative men as extravagant in ideas, but which has proved the far-seeing characteristic of the man whereby profitable results were brought about.

When the building of plank roads engaged the attention of the people, the Judge was among the first to push along the enterprise and build the "Richmondville and Charlotteville road," over which he presided as president for twenty-five years.

Upon the completion of the Susquehanna railroad he became interested in the Howe's Cave enterprises, and was chosen president of

the Howe's Cave Lime and Cement Company, which position he still holds, beside bearing the same relation to three other corporate bodies. By careful and economical business tact he has amassed a large property. He owns nearly half of the village where he resides, including three hotels, two stores, and the manufacturing interest wholly, or in controlling part. He has expended large sums in the improvement of the water-power of the place, by constructing large reservoirs and conductors for milling purposes, and made the "privileges" of that character found here the best and most extensive in the County.

His large amount of business requires a practical system, which he early adopted, and for near commercial convenience, he organized a banking-house in February, 1881, under the title of "Richmondville Bank," of which he is the president and leading financier. Throughout his official, and in his individual transactions, Judge Westover has exhibited a practical administrative ability that but few possess without extensive culture, and exemplified a temperate life, which gives to him a great age, free from infirmities, and enables him to still personally guide and conduct his business, and presents a worthy example to the youth, of the results of study, earnest thought, industry, and observance of the general laws of nature in the formation of habits.

In 1832 he married Catharine, daughter of Benjamin Miles, of Schoharie, who died without issue in January, 1881, at the age of seventy-six, after an active life passed in sympathy with the husband's tastes and aspirations.

CHAPTER XIX.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF CARLISLE.

FIRST SETTLERS—DORLACH GRANT—NEW RHINEBECK—RELICS—MRS. PHILIP KARKER—JUDGE BROWN—GEORGE WILLIAM BROWN—RE-INTERMENT OF JUDGE BROWN—YOUNG FAMILY—TORY FAMILIES—OSTERHOUTS—JOHN C. MCNEILL—HILLSINGER—SETTLEMENT OF GROVENOR'S CORNERS—JOSEPH TAYLOR—BENJAMIN YOUNG—DURAND'S JOKE—SQUIRE JOHN'S PLACE—CARLISLE CENTRE—FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE—MERCHANTS OF GROVENOR'S CORNERS—SETTLEMENT UPON THE TURNPIKE—CARLISLE FORMED—FIRST OFFICERS—P. I. CROMWELL—D. W. SEELEY—SLOAN'S TAVERN—HUNTINGTON TAVERN—CARLISLE CHURCH—CARLISLE POSTOFFICE—HENRY M. BROWN—KILLING OF KELLER—FIRST STORE—MERCHANTS OF CARLISLE VILLAGE—JAMES BOUGHTON—J. C. SELLECK—ARGUSVILLE—AARON MALICK—MICHAEL VANDERVEER—JOHN HYNEY—PHYSICIANS—MERCANTILE FIRMS—JAMES SWARTHOUT—NELSON BURNAP—THE BEAR SWAMP—HENRY I. MOAK—CARLISLE SEMINARY—CARLISLE FOUNDRY—STEAM MILL—ROBBERY OF PETER BECKER—J. H. ANGLE—FIRST MILLS—ANCESTRAL CUSTOMS—SELLECK'S CAVE—DEATH OF PROFESSOR MCFAIL—HIDDEN CAVERNS—CHURCHES—VALUATION OF TOWN—EXPENSE OF TOWN—SUPERVISORS—BOUNDARIES OF TOWN.

THE first settlers of Carlisle were John Philip Karger (Karker), and Peter Young. The father of the latter came from Germany at an early date, and settled upon the Hudson, near the Camps, and was related to the Kergers. John Philip landed at Philadelphia, and came to the Hudson to visit his relatives, and then return to his native land ;

but failing to get a passage at the desired time, he concluded that fate decreed him to remain. He married a daughter of Young, and in company with his brother-in-law, concluded to settle among the Schoharie hills—the German “El-dorado” of those early times—by the “good account of ye fertile of ye soile.” They settled upon lands owned by a Young, (Karker taking three hundred acres), and built a house near the present residence of Solomon D., and Joseph Karker, the old man's great-grandchildren. Young purchased to the north of him, and built near the spot upon which Nicholas Young, a grandson, now resides.

Karker's father was a wealthy wine merchant, and was engaged extensively in the culture of grapes, and Philip selected the high ground near the mountain, with the intention of raising grapes. Upon his departure from the parental home, the father cut a silver coin in four pieces, giving each son a quarter, which was to be evidence of heirship to the father's property, upon his decease. Upon the old gentleman's death, the pieces were to be presented, and if they fitted perfectly, each holder was to receive a fourth part of the effects. During the Revolution, Philip's quarter was lost, and at the father's death, his share was not claimed.

The first land cleared in the town, was north of the “Rock school-house,” in 1760. These farms were a part of “New Dorlach” patent, granted in 1730, (now called the Borst patent,) but not surveyed until the year 1753, by Isaac Vroman, and re-surveyed in 1797, by Johannes Lawyer, (the third land holder).

The original grant contained forty-five lots of six hundred acres each and nine of one hundred and three hundred acres each. In 1754 Johannes Lawyer (the second), Johannes Becker and others purchased an addition to the tract upon the east, extending from the Cobleskill creek to the north line of the original tract—two lots in width, also one lot in width to the north of that and running west along the Dorlach line—four lots of one hundred and ninety-three acres each which is called the Becker patent. Lot number one, of the Dorlach grant, lies east of the mountain vulgarly called “Barrack Zourie.” Numbers two

and three cover the mountain. From the summit of this conical shaped mountain, originally called Owelus Sowlus—but now “Karker Mount”—as beautiful a scene presents itself to the north and northeast as can be found. Upon the north stretches the valley of the Mohawk, and beyond rise the hills and mountains of Fulton and Hamilton counties, while in the northeast those of Warren and Washington appear in the foreground of the Green mountains of Vermont.

Upon the southeast side of the mountain lies a small sheet of water, clear and of great depth having an outlet running in the Cobleskill.

A few years after the settlement of Karker and Young, several families moved here from Rhinebeck on the Hudson and the settlement was known as New Rhinebeck. Other families soon followed from Schoharie and Middleburgh. At the commencement of the Revolution quite a number of families could be found in this neighborhood. Prominent actors in the struggle were the Karkers, Young, Brown, Fichter, Borntheit, Kneiskern, Loucks and Manch or of late Monk. The descendants of all those pioneers are still here but as neighbors enjoy better feeling towards each other than their ancestors did, who were divided in a political point of view as Patriots and Tories.

Around this mountain cluster the Revolutionary historical associations connected with the town of Carlisle. Here upon its sides, were experienced all the hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, anxieties and aspirations peculiar to the Revolutionary days of the patriotic Karker, Young and Brown families. John P. Karker and sons were scouts during the war, leaving home and traversing the country day and night to watch the movements of the prowling foe, carrying messages and doing other dangerous and important services.

Madame Karker during the early part of the war, remained at home, while her nearest neighbors were loyalists, ever watchful of her family's actions and thirsting for their blood. She remained here regardless of danger, as a barricade to her fireside. Night after night she retired to a tree, which is still standing, and laid down upon the cold damp ground to sleep, fearful

of being captured if she remained in the house. Two of her neighbors, fit companions of incarnate fiends, sought to capture and slay her, while her husband and sons were away; but being apprised of their design, she fled to the mountains, and hid beneath a shelving rock, with a babe upon her breast. Her pursuers were often in sight, and once stood upon the rock beneath which she lay concealed. The babe was restless and for fear it would betray her, she put a handkerchief in its mouth and nearly suffocated it before the Tories retired. The babe was Peter Karker, whose descendants live in the West, and are heads of families and begin to bear the marks of hoary age. Thus time glides on, carrying with it one generation after another, effacing all the works of man, except those found upon our blest governmental structure. Those labors and sacrifices are there enstamped, which will grow brighter and brighter, as age after age rolls on. During the war the most valuable effects of the Karkers were secreted in a fallen, hollow, basswood tree, upon the side of the mountain. Among the goods thus stowed away was the family Dutch Bible. A crevice in the tree admitted the rain and did damage to the book by loosening the binding and staining the leaves. It is now kept as a sacred relic by Solomon Karker, a grandson, living near the old homestead, whose family pride and veneration of his ancestors justify him in retaining by memory, and relating with fervency the many incidents connected with the lives of his noble sires. Soon such admiring children will pass away, and less care be taken of the “mementoes” handed down so carefully, and nothing left of the patriotic personal effects. Each year makes the number less, which ought not to be, but should with the greatest care be preserved for ages to come.

John W. Brown.—About the year 1771, there came to New Rhinebeck, John Mathias Brown, a man whose after life proved him to be one of the “noblest works of God” an honest man. With a mind superior to those with whom his lot was cast, he was appreciated and was called upon to act in all business relations throughout this section of country and was found to be a just, practical, frugal and energetic man.

He was born at the Camps in 1745, and came to "Weiser's dorf" with his father William, in 1752.

After marrying Gitty Hager, of Breakabeen, he settled upon the farm now occupied by Samuel Young. The land was purchased by one Wae-nig, a German, who purchased several of the Dorlach lots in the year 1770, and lived in an underground hovel near the present barn buildings. Governor George Clinton's attention was called to Mr. Brown's career and abilities, and he became one of his confidential friends and advisors. It is well known that Governor Clinton, as well as nearly all of the chief officials of those times, did not hesitate to listen to the voice of the common yeomanry of the country upon public questions and give heed to their reasonings.

During Clinton's "Tory war" of 1781, Clinton called upon Brown for his opinion, knowing he was located in the border settlement, in which that element was better known. As there were those who had not been "offensive" but who sided with the Crown through fear, and believing they would make good, law abiding citizens, Brown favored their right as voters which was effected by Schuyler and Hamilton in 1787.

This expression of opinion, led many of the over patriotic to cast the epithet of "Tory" upon Brown, which was unjust. Brown was commissioned Captain of a company of Tryon county militia, by Governor Clinton, but being lame he insisted upon the honor being bestowed upon some one else. But Clinton refused to change the appointment and furnished a horse for his use. If Brown had been a "Tory" Clinton would have known it, and if such had been the case, George Clinton would have been the last man to have placed any confidence in him. DeWitt Clinton's mind also was enraptured with his country's glorious achievements, and like a true patriot he desired to see her struggles and triumphs engraved upon history's page. The Schoharie and other border settlements drew his heartfelt sympathy and he requested Brown to write their early history, which he did in a manner so plain that the most simple can understand.

When we consider his stunted educational

advantages (only six weeks schooling) and his meagre social opportunities in early life we cannot but wonder at the correctness of his language and composition. The Judge was a half-brother of Captain Christian Brown who early settled upon the James Becker farm in Cobleskill. His first wife died in 1796, and a few years after he married Elizabeth VanArnin, daughter of Captain VanArnin, of the Continental army, with whom he lived many years. The fruits of the first wife were eight sons and one daughter, viz:—

John,
Elizabeth,
Peter,
George William,
Henry,
David,
Abram,
Jacob,
Severenus.

The youngest of the children were Abram and David who were twins.

To give an idea of the poverty of the early settlers as well as their customs, under stunted circumstances, we will here state that these boys were nine years old before they possessed a hat. While plowing in the spring and fall, being barefooted and the ground cold, they were compelled, occasionally, to sit upon their feet in the furrow to warm them, and these, were the children of a Schoharie County Judge! It was not penuriousness on the part of the father, but poverty that compelled a sacrifice of bodily comforts. It was so with nearly all of the early settlers, they were extremely poor. Brown was appointed Associate Judge in 1795 upon the formation of the County, and held the office until the year 1820, when he resigned.

The fourth son of the Judge was George William, whose voracious appetite caused not a little merriment wherever he went. In drawing grain to market, as we have before mentioned, several neighbors accompanied each other, and the custom was to take their own provisions along in a dinner box; but that custom was dropped in George William's case, as he could not carry enough to appease his tireless appetite and quite likely he often went

without eating until his return, but upon this particular occasion he was to dine with Russell Case, at what was formerly called Battleman's Mills, eight miles west of Albany. Perhaps his associate laid a plan to victimize the landlord and agreed to pay for the dinner, which was *one shilling*, a very small pittance for the amount of fun in store. George sat down to the table upon which was a roasted pig on a platter in front of him. Without ceremony he took upon himself the task of carving, and putting the meat down his throat as he carved without giving his fellow guests a morsel. No doubt the strangers present looked dumbfounded and were anxious to render assistance in exterminating the pig, but George understood his business, or rather his inward cravings, and ate the whole pig, "stuffing and all." Upon looking around for more with the earnestness of *Oliver Twist*, no doubt, he called the landlord and asked "Hash you got any more of dem leetle hocks?" Undoubtedly Mr. Case replied "nix."

At the age of twelve George was equal to the best of laborers, especially in chopping wood, and it was he that cut a goodly share of the timber which stood upon the line of the Great Western Turnpike through Carlisle, for the road's construction. He was a muscular man, that could endure any amount of labor, especially in devouring "*leetle hocks*."

On the 4th of July, 1879, the remains of Judge Brown and wives were re-interred in the Carlisle cemetery in the presence of many hundred people. The exercises were imposing. After Scripture reading by Rev. L. Lyon and prayer by Rev. C. L. Offer, the remains were delivered by the Marshal of the day, Nicholas Hanson, to the President, Hon. John M. Roscoe. Thirty-eight young ladies representing the States of the Union, (after the recital of a poem by Miss Mary Duesenbury) paid homage to the patriots by casting evergreens and flowers in the graves. An eulogium was delivered upon the lives and characters of Brown and his associates, the Karkers and Young, whose remains it was also expected to have placed beside him, but the relatives withheld their consent. The bones of the Judge were found, nearly entire, after a period of forty-one years interment. The brain

was well preserved and was very large and weighty.

In 1778, when the Indians began their depredations in the Schoharie settlements, the patriots of New Rhinebeck made the house of Peter Young their rendezvous. Being but few in numbers, and the Tory neighbors becoming more venomous as their allies began to make their raids, this little company concluded to leave their homes and seek safety in the forts. A band of Indians assembled at a Tory's house in the neighborhood to capture them, upon which Peter Young started to take his wife, who was a cripple, to the Camps for safety; but fearing he would be unable to do so, she was taken to a small cave at the foot of the mountain and left there alone. Being supplied with provisions, she remained for several days in that place without being discovered by the Tories, whose houses were very near. The walls of this "rock-house," as it has since been called, for many years plainly showed the marks of the fires she built late at night, when all was quiet and danger of being seen had passed.

After the Indians passed off to other fields for murder and devastation, her husband returned and carried her to the Camps, where she remained until the close of the war.

Peter Young's children were:—

Jacob,
Zachariah,
William,
Mathias,
Jeremy,
Christian, ✓
Christina.

Mathias was born on the 20th day of January, 1763, and was the first white child born in the present territory of Carlisle.

His children were:—

Benjamin,
Richard,
Solomon,
Margaret,
Elizabeth,
Lana, (Mrs. Nicholas Osterhout.)

He died May 21, 1822.

The Fichter, Monk, Henry Kneiskern, and two of the Loucks families were loyal, and when the news of a Royal victory was heard, they expressed their pleasure by playing upon fifes. It is said the Fichter girls could play equal to any man. This family's house was the rendezvous of the Tories and Indians. The head of the family was Andrew Fichter, who in company with his brother-in-law, Michael Borntheit, came here from New Orleans, where they landed in 1750. Borntheit died childless, and Andrew Fichter was followed by his sons, Henry and Andrew. There remains but one of the family that bears the name, and soon it will be as extinct as that of Borntheit.

To the east of this neighborhood, Abram Osterhout, a native of Ulster county, settled in 1806. Here he reared a large family, that have been prominent in the political field, and energetic in the interest of the town and County.

The children were :—

Cornelius,
Peter,
John,
James,
Nicholas,
Abram,
George,
Jacob,
Chauncey.

Peter was elected sheriff in 1831. John and James were elected to the Assembly in 1843 and 1852, beside filling various other official positions, at all times proving themselves to be faithful and strictly honest officials.

In 1784, John C. McNeill, of Londonderry, a Revolutionary veteran, came to Charleston, Montgomery county, with his wife, and after a few weeks land hunting, concluded to locate in Carlisle. He began at once to clear the forest, and what proved most singular, felled the first tree upon the spot where he was buried many years after. The farm is now occupied by a grandson, Merritt McNeill. While clearing a site to place his house, his wife remained at Charleston, and he walked over daily and worked alone, the only white man north of the present turnpike, in the limits of the town. A

short time after, one McCracken, another representative of the "Emerald Isle" settled upon the west part of the David Seeley, Sr., farm, but after 1805 moved farther west.

Between the years 1795 and 1810, the town was filled by immigrants from every part of the country, many coming from Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Jersey, owing to the idea gained during the war, of Schoharie being such a wheat growing section. With but very few exceptions, the descendants of the first settlers of the town remain upon their ancestral homes.

Immediately after the Revolution, Jacob and Peter Hillsinger settled at Little York, upon the farms now occupied by Adam and William. During the war, Jacob and Peter were employed as scouts, and spent much of their time in Old Dorlach, watching the movements of the Tories. After the invasion of the Schoharie valley by Johnson and Brant, a Tory of Dorlach, returned to his home, after assisting the British and Indians in devastating the valley, and was met by Peter and others, who were acquainted with his proceedings.

After a friendly salutation passed between them, Peter accused him of his complicity with the invaders, and leveled his rifle to shoot him, declaring he was not fit to live. Peter's companions turned the muzzle of the gun up as he fired, and saved the life of the Tory, but much to Hillsinger's disappointment. These brothers lived upon their possessions to good old ages, and were highly esteemed. Soon after Hillsinger's settlement, also came Frederick Ullman.

Frederick Ullman was a Mohawk scout of notoriety, who came to that valley immediately after the battle of Monmouth, in which he participated. His parents were German settlers of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and without doubt, were connected with some of the Mohawk German families which led him off to these parts. Ullman had the reputation of being the fleetest of foot of any man in the valley, which saved his scalp many times. He married a Keller, of Currytown, and settled upon the Fox place.

Reuben Parkinson, an Irishman, settled about

the same time, upon the present Ullman farm, and after a few years exchanged with Ullman, and kept a tavern where the present one stands. Several of the Parkinson families were scattered over the town, in its earliest days, and were people of ability, and held prominent town offices.

Nathaniel H. Clark, a native of Rhode Island, and graduate of Yale College, settled upon the east of Little York, where William Roberts now resides, about the year 1828, and commenced the mercantile business. He was a pitiable cripple, being nearly helpless, but of active and extraordinary mind. The last few years of his life were spent in speculating in eggs, taking nearly one week in going to and coming from Albany, with his own conveyance.

He died in Albany, while on his way to his old home, to receive the care of brothers and other friends, at the age of eighty.

In 1794 or 1795, Moses Grosvenor, (we use the original name), settled at the corners bearing the family name, after locating at Lawyersville, with Dana and Redington, brother Yankees, for a time. In 1804 a number moved up from Poughkeepsie, and settled in the present Baumis neighborhood, east of the Corners. They purchased their land of supposed owners, but after a few years the rightful ones came, and demanded the lands or purchase money. The most of them refused, and removed. The VanValin, Rich, Conklin, and Dean families, remained, and were Quakers. This settlement was called "New Poughkeepsie."

A few years after the exit from those lands, there came several families of Quakers from the Hudson, the principal ones being Moses and Jacob Dickinson, and the Underhills.

After the latter settlers came, New Poughkeepsie was changed to "Quaker street." Gideon VanValin kept an inn where Thomas N. Borst now resides and was followed by Lyman Hawes, from Connecticut, who settled upon Chauncy Grovenor's farm, and who was one of the first justices in the town and held the office for many years. His grandson, Josiah L. Hawes, was here born in 1822, and after fitting himself for the bar removed to Kalamazoo,

Michigan, where he now holds the office of Circuit Judge in the 9th Judicial District.

About the year 1806 Andrew and James Griffin, Adam and Andrew Mickle came from Schodack, the two former as school teachers. Andrew at last settled west of the "Corners" and commenced keeping tavern in 1809, where his son now resides.

Dr. John Kelley was the first practicing physician at this place and settled in 1830. He afterwards removed to Esperance where he died, and was followed in the profession by Dr. Isaac Scott, who still remains. Dr. Scott is a native of Root, Montgomery county, and graduated at the Albany Medical College in 1848, and soon after settled here.

Farther to the west Joseph Taylor settled in the year 1811 upon a farm that had been occupied by a Hitchman family for several years. Taylor kept a store and built a distillery and was a very energetic business man. He purchased large quantities of flax-seed which he shipped to Europe, beside other grains, which proved successful speculations. "Uncle Joe's" sterling qualities, among which was a ready flow of wit and humor, were sufficient passports to the confidence and esteem of every one, especially the business portion of the whole country. He reared a large family of active business men, and gave to each a goodly "portion" and passed away in the year 1848, at the age of eighty-four, esteemed by all who knew him.

Joining the Taylor farm Gideon Young settled in 1801, having removed from the Angle Brothers' farm, near Lawyersville. He also reared a large family, among whom were Hon. John G., Jacob and Gideon. The longevity of this family exceeds any other in the County, its members being as active and sturdy at the age of seventy to eighty-nine, as those of other families are at sixty to seventy-five.

The Snyder and Burhans families found in this neighborhood came from the Hudson, below Coeymans, in 1808, and occupy the best portion of the town in an agricultural point of view.

Benjamin Young, a brother of Gideon, Sr.,

before mentioned, built a house and kept a tavern in 1808 where Ira Young now resides. For many years the usual sports of horse racing, wrestling, flip drinking, card playing and many other immoral customs were tolerated seven days in a week. Uncle Ben, as he was familiarly called, was quite a horseman and kept his horses sleek and lively. Treat Durand, afterwards Sheriff of the County, lived with Uncle Ben and rode his horses while running, being a small lad. He was not satisfied with his daily fare as it consisted of too much johnny cake and supawn to suit his aspiring stomach. One day there being a crowd of bystanders and a challenge given to Uncle Ben to run horses, he requested Treat to bring out the horse and "run him." The horse not making very good time, being rather inactive, Uncle Ben asked Treat "Vat ish te mather of dee hoss?" "I don't know," replied Treat, "unless he has been fed too much johnny cake."

Young's rage knew no bounds, but the laughter from the crowd soon opened his understanding and the flip was passed at his expense, with "tam leetle tival" as a commendation for Treat's ready answer.

A short distance west of Uncle Ben's at the forks of the road John Severson kept an inn about the year 1820, in a house built by the father of Andrew Young, the historian. The property fell in the hands of John Young, son of Uncle Ben, and was known for many years as "Squire John's place." From this place to the school-house, east, was the race-course. The frequenters of those races were the farmers in, and from the adjacent neighborhoods and much to their discredit, their sports were carried to extremes, as the quiet of Sabbath was frequently broken by their drunken broils and other immoral proceedings.

To use the words of one of the "cronies," as they were called, but who, many years ago, like Saul of old, was stricken down to repentance by the glorious "light," "these places were hell holes." It is a fact which we are loth to chronicle, that from 1800 up to 1830, the morals of every neighborhood in our County were at a low tide. Intemperance carried a fearful sway even to the church altar, where might frequently

be seen those whose breath was only fumes of liquor. It was not unusual for deacons to be habitual drinkers, and "members" habitual swearers, and the temperance advocate branded as a fanatic.

The Young, Loucks and Richtmyer families now living here are near descendants of the first settlers of the County. The small hamlet east, for many years called "Bradt's Corners," was changed to "Carlisle Centre," upon the establishment of the postoffice in 1871.

CARLISLE CENTRE.

Nathan Bassett originated this little hamlet, and lived here many years. During the counterfeiting days of 1830 to 1840 of paper currency as mentioned in Chapter IV, of this work, the law was very harsh with those who passed the "spurious" and many poor men, that received it for wages, were arrested on passing it for the necessities of life, as the guilty were able to swear to anything that would save themselves and send others to prison. Bassett was a poor but hard working man, and happened to be the possessor of a two dollar bill which he passed and was sent to States prison for the offense, much against the desire of the majority of the people, as they believed he was innocent of intended criminality. But a certain few, whose pockets were at all times full of the "bad," swore poor Nathan to the grates. During his imprisonment, the news of William C. Bouck's election to the Gubernatorial chair, was made to him, upon which he quit work and gave three cheers for Bouck. The rules of the prison forbid such a demonstration and Bassett received a few lashes as a reminder of prison discipline, but, "I can't help it," said Bassett and gave three more. Upon Bouck's entry into office a petition was placed before him, with hundreds of names attached, for his release, which was granted and Bassett became a citizen again, and was known to the day of his death as a "thoroughbred, hardshell Democrat."

John W. Bradt commenced the mercantile business here in 1863, upon a small scale, but by enterprise and perseverance, enlarged his facilities and trade, and amassed a comfortable fortune in a few years.

The First School House in the town was built of logs, and stood in the present orchard of Nicholas Young, near the "Rock school-house." At what time it was built, we are unable to tell, but it stood intact before 1795. The next one built was at Grovenor's Corners, in 1805. The first merchants at this hamlet were Allen & Knight, who were followed by John Snyder, in the building now occupied by Tobias Myres, as a residence.

D. D. L. & Jeremiah McCulloch, carried on a store of general merchandise, for many years, in the building now occupied as such. In 1854, D. D. L., was elected sheriff upon the Whig ticket, which was an unusual event in "Democratic Schoharie." But his reputation as an honest, upright man, was an "electioneering" capital that the people admired, and during his term of office he made no cause for them to regret the choice made.

The co-partnership was dissolved upon his election, and Jeremiah continued the business for several years, but is now a resident of Albany City. The family came from Albany county as also did the Bradt, Mosher, Myers, and McMillen families living near.

Henry Best removed from Columbia county about the year 1805, and settled upon the present HonYost Becker farm, and ten years after upon that now owned and occupied by James McMillen. His son Henry became justice of the peace for many years, and was a business man. He is well remembered as the only "auctioneer," in a large circuit of country, for a long term of years.

Within the cemetery near the Union church, built in 1831, lie many of those who settled here when these fine farms were but a dense forest, while others are scattered around upon different farms, in graves unmarked, and covered with briars and brambles, and soon will be lost beneath the work of the plow and harrow.

William Clark came from Coeymans, in 1813, and settled upon the farm still known as the "Clark farm."

He settled when the neighborhood was a dense forest, and by hard labor and superior perseverance, cleared a large, productive farm

before he died. His sons, Honorable William S. and Benjamin, were born upon this farm, and have been prominent in the political and educational affairs of the County. Near by Henry W. Larkin, a native of Rhode Island, settled after following the avocation of school teaching for many years. Mr. Larkin was an unusually eccentric man, of very industrious habits, and amassed a fine property. The Grovenor families living near, are the descendants of Moses Grosvenor, but have changed the name somewhat by dropping the *s*.

Upon the survey and building of the Great Western turnpike, many families from the Eastern States began to locate along the route, expecting it to be the great thoroughfare of the day.

During the spring of 1804, Rodger W. Lord, of New London county, Connecticut, settled upon the farm now occupied by Peter Runkle, and "kept tavern," the first one in the town.

The year previous (1803) John Sweetman moved from Charleston, N. Y., and settled where his grandson, Henry, now lives. He was one of the first justices in the town, and held the office nine years. His son, James, represented the district in the Assembly in 1827. A few years after his brother, Michael, together with David and Nathan Seeley, came and settled near.

John B. Roscoe, from Essex county, N. Y., settled with the Lord family in 1805, and was the first physician in the town, and the only one between Sharon Hill and Duaneburgh until the year 1812. He continued his practice nearly sixty years over a large extent of territory, and was a very successful practitioner; he was followed in 1860 by his nephew, R. J. Roscoe, who still continues the practice.

Carlisle Formed.—In 1807 the town was formed from Cobleskill and Sharon, and was named by Mrs. John Sweetman, an estimable lady, after Carlisle Pierce, a prominent townsman. One hundred and twenty-three acres were laid out in village lots of one-half acre each, with three parallel streets running east and west, and the same north and south, where the village now stands, making a very neat village plan. But while Livingston, the owner

of the land, easily built a small city on paper, but few actual buyers came. They passed on, with the cry, "Westward ho!" But Carlisle was a town, and from the first records we copy the following:—

"At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the town of Carlisle, held this first day of March, in the year 1808, at the house of Benjamin Johnson, in the town of Carlisle, agreeably to an act of the Legislature of the State of New York, for that purpose, in the last Session, made and provided; the following persons were chosen to represent the said town the ensuing year, viz: "

Supervisor—William Ferris.

Clerk—Henry M. Brown.

Assessors—Henry Kniskern, Peter Gordon, Mathias Young.

Commissioners of Highways—Lawrence Van Wormer, Gideon Young, Silvanus Parkinson.

Overseers of Poor—David Lawton, Abram Kniskern.

Constables—Jacob Brown, James Kennedy.

Collector—Jacob Brown.

Poundmaster—Benjamin Johnson.

Fence Viewers—Bostwick Brown, John M. Brown.

Benjamin Johnson came in 1805 or 1806, and built a house and kept an inn, and sold the same in 1808 to Philip I. Cromwell, who came from Glen, (Charleston,) N. Y., and built the large building so many years known as "Cromwell's stand." Perhaps no man was better known from New York to Buffalo than Cromwell unless it was his brother landlord, "Zach Keyes," of Sharon Hollow; two fun-loving Yankees, whose practical jokes were themes of daily gossip by all travelers.

Cromwell's buildings were spacious, and his was the best establishment on the road. His variety of fowls and animals, and unique dovecot, were attractions, which in those days were seldom seen, and which to our youthful minds were beyond description.

The Cromwell house at a subsequent period was occupied by David W. Seeley, the patentee of the famous "wagon coupling" that did away

with the "hounds" upon wagons and saved quite an item in the manufacture of the same. But few, if any, possessed greater enterprise and perseverance than Mr. Seeley, whose natural propensity found its greatest pleasure in "patent rights" and "horseflesh." He removed to Albany at a later period, where he still resides.

Sloan's Tavern.—In 1809 Sturges Sloan removed from Sloansville and built a small house for another "tavern" where William Becker's fine residence now stands. As travel and custom increased he added to his accommodations, and at last occupied a goodly sized building, and was followed at a later date by Reuben Moak, William Thrall, Henry P. Kniskern and Peter W. Ferris, and still later by the famous Doctor Slingerland, whose medical genius was displayed upon boots and shoes instead of the ills to which the flesh is heir. But his remarkable cures and more remarkable surgical operations as told by him to strangers, gave to him the title of Doctor.

He was full of "big stories" that could hardly be called "lies," as he never told one to injure, but rather to amuse, a list of which would fill a large volume, all as he excused himself "to make everybody feel good."

In 1810 *Elijah Huntington* came from Franklin, Conn., with an ox team and one horse, also workmen, and built the present hotel building. Upon finishing and opening the house to the public he placed upon his sign "Tontine Coffee House." Much to his surprise the innocent Dutchmen that principally traveled the road supposed it to be a store and passed on, either to Cromwell's below or Sloan's above.

These landlords were amused by their questions "Vat kinds of coffee ish dot he keeps?"—while others understanding the meaning, considered it a high priced establishment and would pass on for more "common coffee" and lower rates. Finding the inscription had a contrary effect upon his financial prosperity, he placed his own name in its stead and soon obtained his share of patronage. He kept the house many years and was a very energetic, yet eccentric man.

The Presbyterian Church was built in 1813, and left without paint, plastering or pews. Huntington's pride, led him to volunteer to remodel and finish it, and at quite an outlay he produced from the frame, one of the finest churches to be found in the County, which stood until the year 1853 when its lofty spire was taken down and timbers placed in the seminary.

The Carlisle Presbyterian Church was organized in 1803 with twenty-three members and held their meetings in private houses and Cromwell's tavern until the edifice was built.

There have been thirteen resident pastors.

Nelson Austin was the first, and while preaching was attacked with hemorrhage of the lungs and died within a few hours. His successors were as follows:—

Lyman S. Rexford.
R. R. Demming.
L. P. Blodget.
Charles Wadsworth.
William Clark.
James N. Crocker.
— Craig.
Anson H. Seeley.
Stephen Searles.
Robert L. Jones.
Cyrus L. Offer.
Henry A. Lewis.

Mr. Wadsworth was the pastor in the church's palmiest days, from 1832 to 1845. The throng that assembled here to worship was unequalled by any in the County. Mr. Wadsworth lived in retirement for several years and died near Rochester in June, 1878, at the advanced age of eighty-nine.

Mr. Clark followed for a period of fourteen years and removed to Pennsylvania, where he died a true, noble Christian.

The pastorate of Mr. Seeley extended fourteen years in connection with the church at Esperance, in which he endeared himself to both parishes by his sturdy, conscientious christian principles, which made him a man of great worth, and deeply mourned when he passed away.

Reverends Crocker, Craig, Searles and Jones, each zealous workers in the "vineyard," labored for a while and were called to other fields in

which "the harvest is great." C. L. Offer, who took the charge in 1878, assiduously worked in the cause and received many into the church membership as "seals to his ministry" and was followed by Henry A. Lewis, in the fall of 1880, the present pastor.

This church was organized by Simeon Hosaik, of Johnstown, and previous to Mr. Austin's charge, preaching was performed by John B. Romeyn, of Albany, Samuel Smith, Thomas Holaday, William McMillian, Eliphalet Nott, A. Brandage and John Chester,

The Carlisle Postoffice was established in February, 1811, and Philip I. Cromwell received the appointment of "Deputy" after quite a struggle between him and Huntington, who accused each other of being neither "beast or human" in the petitions sent to the department.

Henry Brown, for several years a Supervisor of the town settled in 1806 where his son, Joseph I., so long resided, and now owned by William Cary. He kept a "tavern" which was burned, but rebuilt the present structure, in which the last town meeting was held in the second Cobleskill district, previous to the formation of the town of Carlisle. The season following the building of Brown's house, one Sibley erected the house now occupied by Jacob Kling, which was used as a "tavern" for a long series of years by David C. Richtmyer, William Thrall and Abram A. Kniskern. Below Henry Brown's, nearly opposite of William Hurst's was another "inn" kept for a long time by one Gauley, making eight on the turnpike within the town, a distance of seven miles.

About the year 1830 there came to the eastern part of the town the Bradway Brothers, who settled upon the present farm of William Doty as "wagon makers" whose workmanship was unequalled by any other in the County. Much of their work is now in use not showing a fault, and said to be the lightest draft of any of the latest "improvement" in hub and axle.

From the year 1813 to 1840 a vast amount of potash was manufactured along the line of the turnpike, which was drawn to Albany by teams on heavy, broad rimmed wagons. One Keller, of Sharon, was upon a load and arriving at the

summit of the hill west of Hiram Rockerfellow's, having occasion to alight to arrange the harness, he stepped upon a spoke of the wheel which threw him under the hind wheel, where he was literally crushed.

But few accidents happened along the line of this road, considering the amount of travel, and such occurrences as the one mentioned, in those days, made a greater impression upon the people, than the wholesale slaughter of travelers by railroads and steamers does upon us of to-day.

The first store in town was upon the turnpike, and kept by Cornelius Marshall an Eastern man, in the house now occupied by Stephen H. Kniskern, and for many years by Talmage Leek. Mr. Leek was a native of New Jersey, and came to the town as a saddler and harness maker, in the year 1813, he being the first one of that trade in the town. For six years from 1829 to 1835, he held the office of justice, with Charles Grovenor, John F. Taylor and Sylvanus Parkinson, and was esteemed as an upright and honorable man. Mr. Marshall removed his business to Carlisle village about the year 1814, in a building still standing east of Cromwell's.

In 1816 the building now occupied by A. A. Kniskern as a residence was built, and J. W. Taylor, Tobias Young, Alonzo Crosby, Sherman Corbin and Samuel P. Shibley followed each other in the mercantile business, within it. Dr. Nelson Beach, son-in-law of Cromwell, purchased the property and made a private dwelling of it about the year 1838.

Mr. Shibley built the present lower store in 1838, and in company with his brother George R., continued the business up to the year 1854, when a stock company was formed who purchased the goods and fixtures, and which proved to be an unsuccessful speculation.

D. Seely, Jr., & B. Mowers followed, and after them, came J. M. Falkner, Milo & Ira Auchampaugh, C. W. Taylor & Kelsh, D. D. C. Gaige & A. A. Kniskern.

J. W. Taylor built a "store" near "Sloan's tavern" in 1824, which was burned, and replaced by the present upper store, which was occupied for a time by Minard Harder, and since the year 1847 by J. H. & P. A. Angle, until

quite recently, when the firm changed to J. H. Angle & Son.

James Boughton, a native of Columbia county, and who lately died at the age of ninety-two, was the first school teacher in the village district (No. 5,) and taught in a private house during the winter of 1807; he was followed by Reuben Parkinson and Charles Sloan. The first school-house was built upon the site of the present one in 1818, and John C. Selleck shortly after came from St. Lawrence county and engaged as teacher, which position he held for many years. He was afterwards employed in other districts, and served in that capacity for thirty-two years in succession, and endeared himself to thousands, who were related to him as pupils, for his strict integrity, Christian principles, and untiring efforts in the cause of education. Mr. Selleck was a close student of nature, and became a proficient geological scholar and a terse, expressive writer of both prose and verse. He died after a lingering illness on the 12th of September, 1878, aged seventy-five.

ARGUSVILLE.

In 1785 when the northwest part of the town where Argusville and the pleasant farm homes that surround it are, was a dense forest and a greater part an impenetrable swamp, John Malick and family settled where Robert Ramsey's house now stands. He came from New Jersey, a thickly settled country, to this lone spot, not knowing of the presence of white settlers at a less distance than Currytown. Mrs. Malick came from a wealthy family, and was unused to labor, and much less to the privations of pioneer life. They built a log hut, in which they lived many years, and we can imagine in which Mrs. Malick passed many tearful days.

It is only a woman's love to husband and family that will dictate such sacrifices of comfort and happiness, and which is too often overlooked. Such self-denials show the true nobleness of the heart and character.

After they had passed a few lonely months in their rude house, one quiet morning their attention was drawn to the barking of a dog to the southward, which denoted a settlement.

They set out at once guided by the barking, and emerged from the thicket at Myndert's, upon the present Sharp farm. No doubt they were pleased to find an old settler, and more so to learn of the settlement farther south. Twenty-five years before, this family wandered off here alone, and within that time had endured the horrors of the Revolutionary struggle as captives to the barbarous Tories and Indians, and lost the few personal effects which they had by industry and economy procured. But once more they were in peaceful possession of their home, and though humble "open wide" was the door to "lonely wanderers." There is a doubt whether a more hospitable people was ever known than the old stock of Germans that first settled Schoharie. A more free-hearted, sympathetic people never lived, and when the Malick's received a welcome to their fireside, we know it was a hearty one, such perhaps as Mrs. Malick in her homesickness had longed to enjoy.

Mr. Malick brought a span of horses with him, and there not being any clearing for pasture, he took them daily to the Rhinebeck settlement for grazing. Late in the fall of 1785 he was upon the hill west of his house and heard some one chopping in a south-western course. He went to his hut and obtained his compass, and taking the "bearing" directed his steps by it, and found the Hiller family cutting logs for a house upon the present "Hiller farm," at Sharon Centre. The families immediately formed an acquaintance which ever after proved most agreeable.

During the year 1785 and up to 1800, the greatest influx of settlers occurred in this part of Schoharie and Montgomery Counties.

In 1788 Malick built a grist-mill upon the creek near his residence and for many years it was the only one between the Mohawk and West Kill, except a small "corn cracker," of which we will hereafter mention.

Here we can discern the genius that led this man to this isolated place. We perhaps thought it strange that any but an exile should make such a selection, as at that time large tracts of land were unoccupied nearer settlements, but in looking at the attractive mill site, and the

constant flow of immigration, we do not wonder that Malick, with a mechanical brain wandered and located here.

Mr. Michael S. Vanderveer, long a near neighbor and particular friend of Mr. Malick, informs us that he was a practical surveyor, and land being cheap throughout these parts, he conceived the idea of settling here to follow that avocation, but was led to build a mill, which employed the most of his time. After a very few years' residence, he built a better house upon the ground on which Arnold's public house now stands.

The town line between Carlisle and Sharon, made by Captain Thomas Machin, of Revolutionary fame, and his son, Thomas, Jr., in 1806, passed between the mill and the house in an oblique manner, leaving the former in Sharon and the latter in Carlisle. A frame house was built in the log hut's stead, and as the family became larger and the country more thickly settled, the building was enlarged, and Malick kept an old-fashioned inn.

In 1828 Mr. Malick built another grist-mill, of late torn down, and gave the property to his sons, Peter and Aaron. The former bought the latter's interest, and the father gave him fifty acres of land, which are still owned by his heirs.

Mrs. Orville Hodge, Mrs. Robert Ramsey, and Mrs. Henry Lyker, are grand-daughters of the first settler, and we believe, the only descendants living near the pioneer's home. Mr. Malick died October 7, 1834; Mrs. Malick died June 7, 1814.

John Hyney moved from Stone Arabia with his father, and settled at Gilbert's Corners in 1796. In 1817 he purchased the farm upon which he lived so many years. There was a saw-mill upon the opposite side of the stream from where the present one stands, and the road ran across below the mill. As the "Malick mill" began to fail to meet the requirements of the increasing grain-growing community, Hyney built the present "Carlisle mill" in 1838. Mr. Hyney was a soldier in 1812, in Captain Kellogg's company with Aaron and Elias Malick, Charles Gordon, Abraham Wessel, and several others living near at that time.

When the Erie canal was first put in operation, Mr. Hyney built boats at Yatesville, taking the timber and lumber from his farm and mill, which in any other shape would find a poor market. It was but an example of his sagacity as a business man, which gained for him a large property. Mrs. Hyney is still living, and is over eighty years of age. She retains her faculties remarkably well after a long, industrious life.

We were pleased to meet with others here who have passed beyond the fourscore years, with minds strong, and forms erect and active. Luther Taylor, whose age is eighty-three, has the appearance of most men at sixty-five or seventy. He gave free scope to his retentive memory, at our visit, and would abash many younger men in recalling scenes and incidents with which he was acquainted in days long since gone by.

It is pleasant to meet such aged ones, when we find them free from the feebleness of mind and body that usually attends them. We are told that this little hamlet gained its appellation from the fact that so many copies of the *Albany Argus* were taken by the citizens. The post-office was established in 1840 and John Simmons Junior received the appointment as Deputy. Previous to that, the mail matter for this place was obtained at Carlisle and Sharon. Argusville for many years past, has been as busy a little hamlet as could be found in the country, but at present it is rather dormant.

Dr. Samuel Pettingill was the first physician and was a very successful practitioner. He remained many years and finally removed to Amsterdam where he died in 1874. Dr. J. S. Herrick, of Duanesburgh followed in a very successful practice for the period of seventeen years but was stricken down with disease in the prime of life and died in the year 1872 much to the regret of a large circle of admirers. Upon Dr. Herrick's death, Dr. I. S. Lowell, a graduate of the Albany Medical school, and student of Doctors J. & S. VanAlstine settled here and is the present physician and is, as were his predecessors—of the allopathic school, and is meeting with that success due a careful, attentive and studious professional.

Several mercantile firms have been successful here. John Simmons we believe to be the first who was followed by Webster & Scott, Loucks & Co. and James Snyder. The latter amassed a fortune and removed to Illinois about the year 1855 and became an extensive farmer.

Orville Hodge came next in order, whose business qualifications and gentlemanly bearing, gained an unprecedented trade which enabled him to retire and hand over the business to Bellinger & Maloney in 1875. The latter firm was changed to Bellinger & Hyney, under whose management the only mercantile establishment of the place was carried on for a while when Mr. Harvey Bellinger, as now, became the proprietor.

Theodore Nevills commenced the same business here and after a successful trade of six years, a conflagration swept his property away together with adjoining buildings which have not been replaced.

Hon. John H. Salisbury practiced law at this place for several years, after acquitting himself as a successful school teacher. He was town superintendent of schools several terms, beside County Superintendent from 1843 to 1845 and ever exhibited a lively interest in the cause of education. He represented the County in the Assembly in 1858, and removed to Sharon Springs where he increased his business and became a popular lawyer. He was a self-made man—studious in his profession, an energetic worker and a fluent speaker. After a lingering sickness he passed away and his remains lie here in the Lutheran cemetery beneath a plain marble upon which we read:

DIED AUG. 21, 1870, AGED 63 YEARS.

James Swarthout was for a long time a resident and held the office of Justice for twenty-five years in succession and much to his credit as a jurist, not a single decision was reversed by higher courts and his labors, relating to his office were unequalled by any other in the County for the same number of years. They closed in the year 1876 as he became a resident of an adjoining county. He died January 20, 1881 aged seventy-two.

For several years Nelson Burnap was engaged very extensively in the tin and hardware business near the bridge, and was the most energetic man that the County produced, but by the lack of discretion his energy overbalanced his business and the latter "collapsed," giving the village a shock which its business characteristics have not overcome. He was after a few years succeeded by M. Hoag whose business was purchased by Ezra Yates, now in trade.

Passing on from this quiet spot towards Carlisle village, we pass by the "Bear swamp," that was, to within a few years back a large miry level covered with black ash chiefly, and inaccessible only in winter time. From it emanates Flat creek that passes through Montgomery county, whose rapid flow has ever been partial to "contract bridges" and tax-payers' grumblings.

Many fine mill-sites are found along its course, a few of which have long been occupied. From whence, or how the swamp received the name we are unable to tell.

Nearing Little York we pass by the late residence of Henry I. Moak, who served through the War of 1812 upon Long Island and in New Jersey, and removed from Albany county to this town in 1815. Mr. Moak was a genial gentleman of strict business qualifications, and held the office of "Justice of the Peace" nearly forty years, and represented the town in the Board of Supervisors in 1856. He was practical in his business relations and an able jurist, and served the people faithfully. He died in 1874, at the advanced age of eighty-four.

Carlisle Seminary.—In the fall of 1852 a joint stock company was formed to build a boarding-school, at the village of Carlisle, in which enterprise many of the prospering farmers and mechanics of the community engaged. The season following, the building was erected and furnished, at a total cost of thirty-two thousand dollars, to accommodate three hundred boarders. It contained a large chapel, several commodious recitation rooms, and all the conveniences of a first-class and successful institution.

Speculative excitement ran so high that the immense structure was conceived, erected, furnished and started with "bright prospects" in a few months' time. But ere the season of 1854 closed, the institution began to totter and soon proved a financial failure. It nearly ruined many of the stockholders. Several attempts were made to revive it, but each proved unsuccessful.

A long litigation followed between the trustees and stockholders, which proved a very expensive affair and only crippled those engaged, the more.

The stockholders refused to pay certain debts which they contended the trustees contracted without power from and consent of them. The result was as in all other litigations that the attorneys engaged made the money. Several old and established mechanics and tradesmen were forced to part with their homes and seek new ones in the West, through the losses sustained in the building and failure of the Seminary. Among them was George Brown, who with his brother John W., for many years were engaged in wagon making and blacksmithing, and had become permanent and substantial business men.

The death of John W. Brown at an earlier date, removed one of those active, deep-minded men to whom communities are wont to look up to as superiors, without a display of pomposity, but reserved and unpretending. He was supervisor of the town in 1847, and had he lived, his abilities would have ensured a bright and useful official career.

The firm of S. P. & G. R. Shibley was seriously crippled, and while the former member sought a home in Missouri to regain his fortune, "Uncle George" delved early and late in the foundry for many years in his old age, to pay his honest indebtedness, which he did. He died at his native home, near Glen, Montgomery county, in 1872, assured by all to be "an honest man."

The Seminary building was taken down and a portion rebuilt as "Feathers' Hotel," at Rockville, and the remainder was drawn to East Worcester, Otsego county, to erect the "Thurber House."

CARLISLE VILLAGE.

Carlisle village was, previous to the Seminary mania, a busy, self-sustaining place, but her citizens believing that there were "millions in it" with the sincerity of Colonel Sellers, depended entirely upon the school to make the place, and dividends large enough to support them, and let their less pretentious enterprises drop, and when the institution failed, the place became dormant and remained so for many years. At present its business is on the increase, and will cope well with many larger villages with which it is surrounded.

The Carlisle Foundry was established in 1846, by Paige & Woolson, and is at present owned and managed by George Dwelly, who makes a specialty in the manufacture of plows of various patterns, that are sent to all sections of the country. Having all necessary facilities, the enterprise bids fair to extend to greater proportions.

The steam, saw and grist-mill, erected upon the site of the "Cromwell stand," by Nicholas Hanson, in 1875, adds greatly to the business of the place. In 1875 the old "tavern" building was burned—it having been remodeled to a mill—and the present buildings took its place, which are furnished with a "run of stone," turning lathe, planing machine, and buzz-saw, which work up from eight to ten thousand logs per annum.

The tin and hardware establishment of C. D. Becker, is fast giving evidence of extended prosperity. Several "peddlers" are started from this shop who furnish tin and woodenware to a large section of country, while the home trade continues to increase through the proprietor's careful and determined management.

In 1802, Peter Becker, of Fox's creek, and his son, George, settled upon the farm now occupied by Andrew Relyea, and had made quite an inroad in the giant timber, when they were induced to rent, and purchase a farm upon the turnpike, which they did in 1819, and which is now owned by George Adams.

About that time a vast amount of spurious bank-notes flooded the country, of which

Becker, in his innocence, received and was obliged to lose, and which, coupled with losses in Continental money in his father's family, destroyed his confidence in paper promises to pay, and every dollar his industry and economy obtained was in gold and silver, which were carefully put away, and which through a long series of years, amounted to several thousand dollars. It being known that he was the possessor of such treasures, a family named Sullivan, Irish renegades, conceived the idea of relieving the old man of his precious care, and in the fall of 1849, upon a certain night, his house was entered by bursting an outside door open with a huge stone, and the accumulation of years was swept into the robbers' bags and carried away. In the morning the neighborhood was aroused and a *posse* tracked them to their very door.

The family suspected, consisted of Michael and his wife, a brother John and one son Daniel, at home; the remainder, several in number, worked at different places. Michael, John and Daniel were arrested and tried before Justices Moak and Osterhout but not finding Daniel guilty he was released. John escaped the constable under whose care he was placed and Michael was the only one sent to jail to be tried at the circuit court. Upon searching the house in which they lived a belt of silver was found in a bed, amounting to one hundred and seventy-five dollars, and in the spring following Phœbe and Lany Bassett found beneath a stone in a pasture lot the sum of eight hundred dollars which they delivered up to the Becker family and received one hundred and fifty dollars as a reward. The whole amount reclaimed would not exceed over one thousand dollars, while that taken was supposed to be about eight thousand dollars. Michael was convicted in March 1850 and sent to the States prison for ten years. There were tracks of three persons found along the route taken by the robbers but after Daniel's release no one was arrested upon suspicion. Nevertheless a strong opinion prevailed that Mrs. Sullivan was the third party. While Michael was in jail she was admitted to his cell several times in the presence of the Sheriff, without any thoughts of mischief brewing; but one night the

jailor was aroused by the cries of a prisoner, and repairing to the jail it was found that Sullivan and others confined, were effecting an escape, and that a more "sensitive" jail-bird was giving the alarm. Upon investigating, it was found that Mrs. Sullivan had stolen a saw-mill bar from a mill in Carlisle and had smuggled it into the jail beneath an old style "mantle" or cloak. It was suspended by a cord to her neck and escaped the jailor's scrutiny.

The belt of money spoken of was found the next day, which was in readiness for Sullivan to take with him when his anticipated escape was effected.

George Becker was seized by the ruffians the night of the robbery, by the throat and held in a strangling grasp until the money was obtained and securely placed in the sacks. His life was nearly despaired of and months elapsed before he fully recovered. The father was blind and deaf with age and knew not of his loss until the robbers had left, and upon learning the fact he slowly sank away as if with a broken heart and died soon after.

Another daring robbery was committed in the village that was attended with boldness and strategy that deserves mention. On the night of January 1, 1873, the residence of J. H. Angle was entered by a burglar, while the family was absent a few minutes and took money to the amount of seven hundred dollars from the bed-room without molesting anything else, and not leaving a trace that would lead to detection. All efforts to obtain a clue to the guilty ones proved fruitless.

First Mill.—It has been thought the first mill in town was upon the farm now occupied by William and Walter Larkin, and known as the "Samp mill," but years previous to the erection of it one stood in the north-east part of the town and was known as "Bryant's mill." It stood near the "Hilts Burton Bridge," and must have been built about the year 1790. Bryant, Stephen Crocker, (grandfather to Lewis and George Crocker,) David Lawton, Pierce Dwelly and — Montayne, came from Rhode Island, in 1788, and settled in this neighborhood upon lands still retained by their families.

Prior to the building of the latter mill, one Beauman (Bowman) built a grist-mill between Hamilton and Sosthenes Lawyer's homes, over a "rock hole," in which the water flowing from a swamp near, entered the ground. The water wheel was placed quite deep in the cavern and received the water from a shelving rock. This also was a "samp mill" *i. e.* without a bolting cloth and was used chiefly to grind corn.

At what time this mill was built we are unable to say, but it must have been immediately after the Revolution and was unoccupied many years before it was taken down. The swamp from which the water flowed furnished a full supply, during and for some years after the war, but of late years as the lands surrounding have become cleared of timber, but little water accumulates excepting in the spring, when the outlet becomes clogged with snow and ice. Thus it will be seen that the first mill was the "Beauman," the second the "Malick," and third the "Bryant," and the fourth the "Samp mill," built by John Brown, and after owned by — Blodgett, father of James F. Blodgett, of Cobleskill.

Mr. Malick's mill was the only one having a bolting cloth when first built. His mill also was furnished with a first-class "Sopus Stone," and was more like a mill of to-day than any other in this section of the country. As a proof of the fact, he made forty pounds of fine flour from a bushel of wheat, which we have been told other mills could not do.

The milling in early days was done on foot, with a small quantity at a time, and as the people became better able, on horseback. Here we may relate a little incident that happened not far distant from our own neighborhood, to show a characteristic peculiar to the ancient Dutch, that of doing as their fathers did before them regardless of its impracticability.

A farmer's son was ordered to carry a bushel of corn to the mill on horseback, and the method was to put the grain in one end of the bag and a stone in the other, that would give nearly an even weight on both sides of the horse, thereby ensuring the rider of its safety in not slipping off. The young man objected to

the stones and in their stead put in another half-bushel of corn, and after tying the bag caused an equal quantity to be placed in each end, and upon throwing it on the horse, proved or tried to prove, in a practical way that it would carry just as safely as if stones were used, and so much more grain taken. The father looked on with contempt, as a "new fangled notion," and ordered the boy to put the stones in the bag, asking him if he was not ashamed to think he knew "more ash your fadder or grandfadder did before you."

Caverns—Selleck's Cave.—There are several caverns in the town, the chief of which is upon the farm of Ira Young, and was discovered and explored by Prof. John C. Selleck, and bears his name. Its entrance is effected by a perpendicular descent of nearly fifty feet; coming upon a level it bears off to the west of south, and from its ceiling the most beautiful transparent stalactites are formed by the dripping waters of ages. Beneath are rare and curious shaped stalagmites upon the rock floor, rough and uneven. Many fine geological specimens are to be found within this ever dark air. Prof. McFail, of Carlisle Seminary, an accomplished gentleman, met an untimely death at its entrance after exploring the cave with others, in 1853. The Professor was on the rope used to draw persons up from the pit, and coming in contact with the outer air he fainted and fell back striking upon his head, which badly fractured the skull, and from which he survived only a short time. Since that time, few if any, visits have been made to the cave. Logs have been rolled in, and a small stream running to it has nearly closed the entrance, which will in a few more years shut from knowledge, except by tradition, its existence. Several streams in the town emerge from the fissures in the lime rock, and after running upon the surface a short distance hide themselves, to appear again, perhaps miles away.

There are no doubt, many very attractive caverns within the town which are now, and forever will be unknown, wrapped in darkness and silence, save the gentle rippling of the pearly drops of water, that have been for ages and ages forming transparent pendants. In

these hidden caskets of nature, beautifully arranged are earth's choicest gems, upon which, if the sun could but throw its light, the eye of man would be too feeble to behold.

CHURCHES.

Baptist Church of Argusville.—In the fall of 1837 a great revival meeting was held at this place by different denominations and not having any house of worship, steps were taken for the organization of a society and the building of a church. The Baptists being in the ascendancy, organized in September of that year under the pastorate of Henry Topping then pastor of the Leesville Baptist church. Nathan Seeley, of Carlisle and George Button, of Anns were chosen Deacons. An edifice was erected in 1838 and built by incurring a debt and by subscription from the citizens. The Baptists were to have the first privilege of the pulpit and when not occupied by them, other evangelical denominations had the right of use. In 1841 the first resident pastor was settled, being Merrett House of Sandlake, but who succeeded him we are unable to learn, as the records were not to be found, upon our visit. The tide of emigration to the Western states from this locality began in 1847 and it told upon the Baptist membership to such a degree as to make it impossible to free the society of the building debt. Judgment was acknowledged and the building sold, the purchasers being Nathan Seeley in behalf of the Baptists and the Lutheran society. Preaching by the two churches was enjoyed—alternately at first, but that of the Baptists soon ceased and the Lutherans alone occupied the house. Upon the building of the Lutheran church the old building was sold and removed—the seats and desk being now in use in the "Root Centre church."

Evangelical Lutheran Church at Argusville.—This church was organized on the 13th of February 1839 by Reverend Philip Weiting. Nicholas Kling and John Collins presided. The following officers were chosen :—

Elders :

Nicholas Kling.

John Collins.

Peter VanValkenburgh.

Deacons :

Benjamin Lehman.
John Bellinger.
Jacob Moak.

Trustees :

Nicholas Kling.
John Ressigieu.
W. H. Davenport.

Secretary :

James Swarthout.

The society worshipped in the "Baptist church" until it became too small for their numbers. Their present substantial church buildings were erected in 1855. The following pastors have officiated:—

———Rev. Philip Weiting.

———J. D. Lawyer.

1848—Marcus Kling.

1849—Marcus Kling.

1850—Marcus Kling.

1851—Marcus Kling.

1852—Marcus Kling.

1853—Marcus Kling.

1854—Marcus Kling.

1855—Marcus Kling.

1856—Marcus Kling.

1857—Marcus Kling.

1858—Marcus Kling.

1859—Marcus Kling.

1860—Marcus Kling.

1861—Marcus Kling.

1862—Marcus Kling.

1863—Marcus Kling.

1864—Marcus Kling.

1865—Marcus Kling.

1866—Marcus Kling.

1868—J. R. Sikes.

1869—J. R. Sikes.

1870—J. R. Sikes.

1871—Julian.

1872—L. E. Marsh.

1873—Augustus Bridgman.

1874—Augustus Bridgman.

1875—L. Ford, present pastor.

During Mr. Kling's pastorate this church was in connection with Little York and Centre Valley—and under Mr. Sikes—with Little York. The officers chosen in 1880 were:—

Deacons :

Reuben Collins.
John Bellinger.

Clerk :

Orville Hodge.

Universalist Church of Argusville.—This society was organized about the year 1850 and they built an edifice in 1853 under the pastorate of Reverend J. D. Hicks. Reverend W. H. Waggoner officiated for several years and at present the society is only in name, the members being scattered and too few to sustain a preacher, their house of worship was rented to the Methodists in 1874 who still occupy it.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Argusville.—The organization was effected in May, 1874, and John Schermerhorn, M. M. McCann and Adam Conradt elected trustees. It is connected, as an organization, with Rural Grove in pastorate and worships in the house erected by the Universalists—at a yearly rental.

This society is full of spirit, and progressive and will soon erect a church of their own or purchase the one they now use. The following ministers have officiated:—

1874—Charles Heath.

1875—Charles Heath.

1876—William Stanley.

1877—LeGrand Jones.

1878—LeGrand Jones.

1879—LeGrand Jones.

1880—Hamilton Allen, present pastor.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Grovenor's Corners.—At what particular time this society was first organized we are unable to say, as the old records are not to be found. As far back as 1807, there was Methodist preaching in the house of Peter Mosher, upon the farm occupied by the late David Larkin. Mr. Mosher was from Coeymans, and a staunch professor of that doctrine. In all probability the society was organized near that time, making it one of the oldest in the County. The neighborhood being made up of immigrants from all parts, it must be supposed they were of various doctrinal beliefs, and they united in 1831 in the building of a church. The Methodists being in greater

numbers, they have originally had the preference in the use of the house, but preachers of the Reformed Church of Lawrysville, Elder Ross, of Charleston, and pastors of the Baptist Church of Sloansville, have from time to time held meetings here. This society was included in the Cobleskill circuit in 1832, and up to 1867. Since that time it has been connected with either Central Bridge or Sloansville in pastorate. The present pastor, Philip West, is the first one that has had the charge by itself. The society are now building an edifice.

Baptist Church of Grovenor's Corners.—As far back as 1820, the Baptists of Sloansville have held meetings within this church, and from time to time awakened a religious interest, but did not legally organize until 1868, under the pastorate of Parley Grovenor. Since Mr. Grovenor's removal, the pulpit has been occupied by the Sloansville pastor.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Little York.—This organization was effected by Rev. M. Kling in 1848, and an edifice erected the year following. It was dedicated December 1, 1849, and Martin Tilapaugh, Elias Paige, and Peter Brown, were chosen trustees. Rev. M. Kling continued his pastorate to the latter part of the year 1859, when he was succeeded by Rev. J. R. Sikes, who remained two years; Rev. George Young followed from 1862 to 1863, when Rev. M. Kling was again called and still occupies the desk.

Carlisle Christian Church.—This society was organized in 1878, and built the present edifice in the fall and winter of that year, with Rev. James Wright, of the Charleston Christian Church, as pastor. The present officers are:—

Deacons:

Nicholas Hanson.
John Ressigieu.
William S. Brown.
Milton Benson.

STATISTICS.

The assessed valuation of the town in 1821 was as follows:—

Personal, \$2,760.

Real, \$141,216.

The number of taxpayers was 207.

The assessed valuation of the town in 1880 was as follows:—

Personal, \$66,510.

Real, \$629,113.

The number of taxpayers was 461.

The total expense of the town in 1827 was \$97.75; and in 1880, \$620.00.

SUPERVISORS.

The Supervisors of the town, with the date of their election, are as follows:—

1808—William Ferris.
1809—William Ferris.
1810—William Ferris.
1811—William Ferris.
1812—William Ferris.
1813—William Ferris.
1814—Cornelius Marshall.
1815—Cornelius Marshall.
1816—Gideon Young.*
1817—Lyman Hawes.†
1818—Henry M. Brown.
1819—Henry M. Brown.
1820—Henry M. Brown.
1821—Henry M. Brown.
1822—Henry M. Brown.
1823—Henry M. Brown.
1824—Henry M. Brown.
1825—Henry M. Brown.
1826—Henry M. Brown.
1827—John Young.
1828—William Ferris.
1829—William Ferris.
1830—William Ferris.
1831—William Ferris.
1832—Silvanus Parkinson.
1833—Ira Dewey.
1834—Ira Dewey.
1835—Ira Dewey.
1836—Samuel P. Shibley.
1837—Samuel P. Shibley.
1838—Samuel P. Shibley.
1839—Samuel P. Shibley.
1840—David Angle.
1841—David Angle.
1842—Chauncy Grovenor.

* Deceased.

† Appointed in 1816, elected in 1817.

- 1843—Chauncy Grovenor.
- 1844—John Simmons.
- 1845—D. D. L. McCulloch.
- 1846—John W. Brown.
- 1847—D. D. L. McCulloch.
- 1848—Charles G. Kenyon.
- 1849—Barziliar McNeill.
- 1850—Barziliar McNeill.
- 1851—A. A. Kniskern.
- 1852—D. Angle.
- 1853—Samuel Pettengall.
- 1854—Chauncy Grovenor.
- 1855—Chauncy Grovenor.
- 1856—Henry I. Moak.
- 1857—Abram A. Kniskern.
- 1858—Abram A. Kniskern.
- 1859—Abram A. Kniskern.
- 1860—Abram A. Kniskern.
- 1861—Henry C. Lyker.
- 1862—Adam Hillsinger.
- 1863—Henry C. Lyker.
- 1864—Adam Hillsinger.
- 1865—Henry C. Lyker.
- 1866—R. J. Roscoe.
- 1867—J. M. Roscoe.
- 1868—J. M. Roscoe.
- 1869—J. M. Roscoe.
- 1870—J. M. Roscoe.
- 1871—J. M. Roscoe.
- 1872—J. M. Roscoe.
- 1873—J. M. Roscoe.
- 1874—J. M. Roscoe.
- 1875—J. M. Roscoe.
- 1876—J. M. Roscoe.
- 1877—J. M. Roscoe.
- 1878—J. M. Roscoe.
- 1879—George Burhans.
- 1880—George Burhans.

BOUNDARIES.

And all that part of the said County of Schoharie bounded by a line beginning in the northerly bounds of the County at the northwest corner of the town of Schoharie, and running thence southerly along the west line of the said town of Schoharie until it comes opposite the house lately occupied by Aaron Cole, Jr., thence westerly to the south side of the house now or late of George Loucks, thence westerly to the north side of the house

now or late of John Angle, thence on the same course until it intersects a straight line running southerly from the northwest corner of the house now or late of Wm. Ferris, thence northerly along the line so intersected to the northwest corner of the dwelling house last mentioned, thence northerly to a straight line to a spring at the west end of the house now or late of John Reddington, on the farm lately occupied by him, thence northerly in a straight line along the east side of the house now or late of John Malick, to the north bounds of the County, and thence easterly along the said north bounds to the place of beginning, shall be and continue a town by the name of Carlisle.

CHAPTER XX.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF ESPERANCE.

LOCATION OF ESPERANCE VILLAGE—PURCHASE OF THE LANDS BY TEN EYCK—BY GENERAL NORTH—A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE—TURNPIKE—BRIDGE—ACCIDENT—DANIEL HARE—HIS INN—OTHER INNS—CALVIN WRIGHT—J. C. WRIGHT—ISAAC H. TIFFANY—OTHER LAWYERS—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—METHODIST CHURCH—PHYSICIANS—STORRS MESSENGER—JUDGE BRIGGS—MERCHANTS—VILLAGE CORPORATION—POSTOFFICE—STAGE HOUSE AND ROUTE—ACADEMY—CHAIR MANUFACTURE—FEATHERS HOUSE—GITTY LAWYER—JUDGE FLETCHER—PECK'S INN—FIRST GATE KEEPER—PROCEEDS OF ROAD—SLOANSVILLE—VAN VALKENBURGH SETTLEMENT—BROWN BROTHERS' SETTLEMENT—TOLL GATE—SLOAN FAMILY—OTHER SETTLERS—STORES—ROBERT MCMASTER—POST STATION—DAVID PHELPS—STONE HEAP—REV. HAWLEY'S NARRATIVE—FOSTER MILL—KNEISKERN'S DORF—ITS SETTLERS—THEIR CHILDREN—THEIR GRAVES—KNEISKERN FAMILY—ENDERS FAMILY—FIRST GRIST-MILL—JOHNSON'S INVASION—ENCAMPMENT—

TOWN FORMED—FIRST OFFICERS—GENERAL BROWN—ANTI-RENT TROUBLES—ASSEMBLY-MEN—SUPERVISORS—AID TO THE RAILROAD—BAPTISTS—PROMINENT MEN—FIRST NEWS-PAPER—QUOTATIONS FROM IT—LAND PATENTS.

THE territory which embraces the town of Esperance, previous to 1846, belonged to Schoharie. The quiet and neat little village from which the town derived its name, is pleasantly situated upon the north bank of the Schoharie creek, and is the oldest incorporated village in the County. In 1803 Harmonus Ten Eyck, heir of Jacob and Hendrick Ten Eyck, who received the land grant in 1739, owning the land upon which the village stands, laid out between sixty and seventy acres in building lots. The same was sold to General North, of Revolutionary fame, February 26, 1806, who gave to it its present name, it being a French word, signifying "Hope."

General North owned a large estate in the town of Duanesburgh, near the Duane mansion, (a member of which family he married,) where he lived for many years. In 1798 he received from Governor Jay an appointment to the United States Senate, to succeed John T. Hobart. He represented the Albany district in the State Assembly in 1792, 1794 and 1795, Albany and Schoharie in 1796, and Schenectady in 1810. In 1795, 1796 and also in 1801 he was Speaker of the same. During the Revolution he was an aid to Baron Steuben. The latter part of his life was spent in New London, Conn. On the 4th day of January, 1836, he died in the city of New York, and his remains were brought to Duanesburgh and placed within the Duane family vault. Nearly all of the Esperance lots were sold or leased by him, those of the latter for a perpetual term.

As the turnpike enters the County at this place, we will now refer particularly to that thoroughfare.

An act was passed by the Legislature on the 10th of April, 1792, for the "construction and improving a road from Isaac Truax, Jr., in the city of Albany, to Cherry Valley, and a bridge

across the Schoharie creek, between the north bounds of the farm occupied by Oliver Hills, and the north bounds of the farm occupied by ——— Degroot, in the town of Duanesburgh." General William North, Silas Talbot and Theodorus V. W. Graham were appointed a board of commissioners to lay the road and see to the construction of the same, and the bridge.

During that season the road was laid out, and the bridge built so that teams could cross, but was not finished until the season following—1793. The road then laid out, passed near the stone church and a little north of the present path, to the west, until near Sloansville, where it was run as now. Emigration to the western counties began to be quite brisk and the road not having received any improvement except the cutting of trees, a petition was made for the construction of a substantial road-bed, but the Legislature did not exert itself to that end until the bridge at this place was swept away by the unparalleled freshet of 1798. On the 15th of March, 1799, an act was passed to establish a "turnpike corporation for improving the State road from the house of John Weaver in Watervliet to Cherry Valley." The act says:—

Whereas the bridge over the Schoharie Kill on the State road, was by reason of the force of water and ice, last spring (1798) destroyed and

Whereas the road on which the aforesaid bridge was erected is of public utility and is one of the public routes of communication between the city of Albany and the western settlements of this state Therefore

Resolved that William North, John Taylor, Abraham Ten Eyck, Charles R. Webster, Calvin Cheeseman, Zenas Pinneo, Ephraim Hudson, Joseph White, Elihu Phinney and Thomas Machin (Sr.) and all such persons as shall associate for the purpose of making a good road from the house where John Weaver now lives in the town of Watervliet in the county of Albany following the State road westward to the house where John Walton now lives in the town of Cherry Valley in the county of Otsego, shall and are hereby created and made a corporation and body politic.

A bridge was built at this place in 1792 and was swept away in 1798.

A temporary bridge was constructed a little to the west of the present one in 1799, and the present one was not built till several years after. In 1809, one Burr, took the contract to build a new bridge and built the abutments a few feet high when he was called to some other place to construct a bridge, and did not return till the year 1811. The structure was finished and the first team driven over by Judge Olney Briggs on the first day of January, 1812. Sixty-nine years have rolled around and thousands after thousands of people and teams have passed over, and devastating floods beneath, yet it stands firm and is an example of honest and perfect work. Nearly forty years ago it was condemned by hungry contractors and timbers were drawn upon the spot to rebuild, but the work was deferred and they have long since decayed and a healthy contract lost, while the bridge stands to laugh at human calculations and expectations. While the temporary bridge was in use a few planks had been removed to let stone through to the abutments, and carelessly replaced.

A family by the name of Morrow living north of the stone church were returning from meeting in Duaneburgh and upon driving over these planks they gave way and precipitated the family and team to the bed of the creek a distance of thirty feet. The hind wheels of the wagon were too large to pass through the space and consequently remained suspended. Mrs. Morrow was fatally injured while the rest of the family escaped with slight bruises. Doctor Roscoe of Carlisle was the nearest physician and surgeon and was in attendance. Judge Briggs purchased the privilege of being the first to drive over the present bridge by the payment of twenty dollars.

Having thus referred at length to the bridge, we will return to the village, its first settlement, and the prominent gentlemen that located here. Upon the building of the bridge and road, there were but three small and rude houses erected, but by whom we are not able to learn. In 1793 Daniel Hare, from Columbia county, after a short residence below Quaker street, passed over the bridge and settled opposite Erastus

Williams' present residence, west of the village. He built a small house intending to settle as a farmer, but when the workmen were constructing the road, he boarded them and concluded to adopt the Inn business. He built an addition to his house, and when the road was finished to Cherry Valley and the immensity of travel began to pour over the road, he opened a public house, and for many years it was known as the "Red Tavern." But time has decayed the building with all its surroundings, and long since the whole was cleared away, leaving nothing of its "once having been" but the well, over which, for many long years the creaking groaning "sweep" carried the "oaken bucket" up and down its moss covered sides. There did not seem to be a very good prospect of the village lots being taken until the year 1805. Emigration to the western counties and Ohio, from the Eastern States and Hudson river counties, together with the produce of Otsego and northwestern Schoharie, finding a market at Albany, began to take this route, and men of ability and means became satisfied that Esperance would become a business center. About the year 1806 an inn was built near the bridge by John Burt, which in after years was known as the Phoenix. It was for many years kept by — Tillman, and at a later date by John Hare, who was interested in the stage business. There was also a like house built upon the ground now occupied by the Methodist church, but who its first occupant was we are unable to tell.

About the year 1808 Calvin Wright became the "host" and after a few years the building was burned and not rebuilt. Mr. Wright was the father of John C. Wright, who figured so conspicuously in political affairs in after years. Mr. Wright studied law in the office of John Cummings. After being admitted and gaining a lucrative practice, he received the appointment of First Judge of the County in 1833, succeeding Judge Beekman, and held the position until the year 1848, when he was succeeded by Charles Goodyear. Mr. Wright was elected State Senator in 1843, 1844, 1845 and 1846, and represented the third district, which comprised the counties of Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Delaware and

Schoharie. He removed to Schenectady and was elected Comptroller of the State, in 1851, the duties of which important office he performed faithfully and satisfactorily to the people. At the expiration of his term he settled again at Schenectady, where he died on the 4th of January, 1862, at the age of sixty-one.

Isaac Hall Tiffany, whom we will notice in Cobleskill, settled here about the year 1809 or 1810, and was the first lawyer. It was here he became interested in the breeding of fine wool sheep, in which he met with heavy losses. Mr. Tiffany was shortly followed by John Cummings, a lawyer of fine ability, who removed in after years to Canajoharie. Alexander and David Cruikshanks succeeded Cummings; the former represented the County in the Assembly in 1832. John C. Wright succeeded these gentlemen, and was associated with Sherburne Frost, who upon Wright's removal, remained in the office.

About the year 1848, John E. Mann, of Schoharie, a student of Henry Hamilton, also held a law office at this place, but removed to Wisconsin, and now occupies the judicial bench of Milwaukee county, having been of late elected to that position for the third term.

Joshua M. Donaldson, a student of Jedediah Miller, settled here in 1857 or 1858, and represented the town upon the Board of Supervisors in 1860 and 1861. Donaldson removed to Minnesota, where he died in 1877. Donaldson was succeeded by J. F. Hazleton, who was for several years United States Internal Revenue Assessor, and received the appointment of Consul to the Court of Rome by President Hayes, and is now acting upon that mission.

A grist-mill was built upon the opposite side of the stream at an early date by Thomas Thornton, and was afterwards owned by Henry W. Starin, uncle of the present Congressman, John H. Starin, of Fultonville. The last owner of the mill was Henry Brown. It was burned and rebuilt by him, but fire once more laid it in ashes, and Haines & Isham built one upon the Esperance side, which still stands. A paper-mill formerly occupied the site, but by whom it was built we are unable to learn. Henry Mandle and Alfred Isham owned the property

for many years. The iron foundry of Woolson & Keyes, was established in 1856, by Roswell Woolson, who removed from Carlisle, and was the inventor of the well-known "Carlisle No. 1" plow.

The first school-house stood a little to the west of Daniel Hare's old tavern upon the opposite side of the street, and was built in 1805. William, a brother of Daniel Hare, settled here upon the hill south of the creek a short time after 1793, while Jonathan, another brother, located upon the farm now owned by Silas Hare, a son of William, in the town of Duanesburgh.

In 1810 the village had become quite large and was the aristocratic settlement of the County. The old school-house was abandoned and a new one built that year, and used for holding religious meetings as well as school purposes, until the year 1824. The building was considered the finest of the kind in the County. General North and lawyer Tiffany donated a bell, which was placed in the belfry for church purposes. It was purchased in Albany, but by whom it had been previously owned we cannot say. It bears the date of 1738, and the inscription upon it reads :

"POURS LE BENINUM SIC NOMEN DOMINI
BENEDICTUM 1738, FAITH PAR MOL."

Presbyterian Church.—We find upon the well-kept records the following :—

"ESPERANCE, August 8, 1823.

"Church session met for the first time at the Rev. Mr. Lyons' study; present, Rev. L. Lyons, Mr. Joel Messenger, Mr. Joseph Green, Mr. Robert W. Naton. It was resolved that the following narrative be recorded :—

"Previous to the year 1817 the inhabitants of this village were not favored with regular preaching of the Gospel by any denomination. The Rev. James N. Austin, who now rests from his labors, was employed one-fourth of his time to preach at this place. He commenced July, 1817. His labors among this people were blessed, and on February 22, 1818, the following persons were formed into a church, viz :—

Joel Messenger,
George Leet,
Erastus Gaylord,
Sally Gaylord,
David Casson,
Andrew Caswell,
Mary Cumprton,
Sarah Wright,
Lucretia Leet,
Sally Meuny,
Elizabeth Cumprton,
Alida Cumprton,
Julia Isham.

"During that year there was an addition of twenty-six members in all. Mr. Austin left in 1819, after which they were supplied by Rev. Roswell Messenger, October 20, 1821, Rev. Mr. McFarlane, and Rev. Luke Lyon in 1822.

"November 12, 1822, a meeting was called to elect trustees and take measures to build a house of worship."

The first Sabbath-school was organized January 19, 1823, and on the 9th of February following, the Lord's Supper was celebrated for the first time. On the 4th of May, 1823, a church was formed, composed of those already mentioned, and in addition :—

Richard Hemstreet,
Ebenezer Brown,
Mrs. Clarissa Sheldon,
Mrs. Elizabeth Dickenson,
Mrs. C. Van Schoonhoven,
Mrs. Lydia Simpson,
Mrs. Elizabeth Beach,
Mrs. Martha McCarty,
Mrs. M. Tapping,
Mrs. Mary Vene,
Widow Martha Hemstreet,
Mrs. Maria Young,
Mr. W. L. Candee.

The first elders were :—

Joel Messenger,
Joseph Green,
Robert W. Nolton.

The new church was dedicated July 4, 1824, Rev. Dr. Yates, of Schenectady, and Rev. L. Lyon, officiated.

Rev. L. Lyon was installed August 18, 1824.

The pastors have been as follows :—

Rev. L. Lyon, 1824-1827.
Rev. Jared Dewing, 1832.
Rev. William E. Dixon, 1833.
Rev. C. D. W. Tappen, 1834.
Rev. William E. Dixon, 1849-1851.
Rev. A. Craig, 1855-1859.
Rev. A. H. Seeley, 1859-1872.
Rev. J. D. Counterline, 1876-1880.
Rev. W. J. Blain, 1881.

The Methodist Episcopal Church.—The Methodists worshipped in a small church for many years that stood upon the south side of the turnpike opposite the school-house, in the town of Duaneburgh. In 1828 a society was organized here and in 1836 they erected a large house of worship with a brick basement upon the corner of Main and Steuben streets, where Hon. Joseph Buckbee's fine residence now stands. The first Quarterly Conference was held in the building July 16th of that year. S. Stebbins and A. Champlin were the preachers and S. Miner the presiding elder. It was voted that Palatine Bridge and Spraker's Basin be annexed to this circuit. In 1868 the building was removed to its present site and remodeled. There were but five members at the organization and Reverend Joseph Ames was the first pastor.

Physicians.—Dr. Beach was the first physician and came about the year 1808 and was followed in 1812 by Dr. Prentiss Leonard a student of Joseph White of Cherry Valley. His son Lorenzo I. Leonard now holds the practice, gained by the father when the country was new and very uninviting to professionals. Dr. Henry Green soon followed Leonard. Dr. Green removed to Albany. Dr. Dunbar of Westerlo, Albany county, afterwards settled and was followed by Dr. John Kelly, after a long practice in Carlisle. He located here about the year 1856 and died in 1863.

Dr. Norwood located here a short time previous to Kelly's death and is at present the regular practicing physician. About the year 1840 Dr. Rowland located at Sloansville and enjoyed an extensive practice throughout the

town for many years, when he removed to Cherry Valley. He was a very skillful practitioner and business man. During his last year's residence in that village Dr. Teeple located there and continued until the year 1870. Dr. J. M. Emerson was also at that place during the 60's and removed to the West.

Daniel Beach a brother of Dr. Beach was the first jeweler and removed to Sloansville about the year 1818 and was familiarly known as "Tinker Beach." He was succeeded by Storrs Messenger who came to the place from Connecticut in 1817. Mr. Messenger has since that date, been identified with the business enterprises of the place. As old age has crept upon him he has laid his blow-pipe and glass aside, having only the business cares of the post-office upon his mind, to which he has attended for many years. His trade is carried on by one of his journeymen, Avery Brazee and is still the only one in the place. Mrs. Messenger was a daughter of Nicholas Delavergne, who it is said was the first hatter in the County. He came from Columbia county and settled at "Garlock's dorf" near Schoharie in 1785 and removed to this village in 1808. John Delavergne his son, is at present the owner of the village lots and leases, having purchased the same from the North heirs in 1878.

Judge Briggs.—At the time John Cummings settled here, his brother-in-law Olney Briggs also came as a saddle and harness maker. Mr. Briggs was born in Berkshire county Massachusetts in 1775 and with his parents removed to Otsego county soon after the Revolution. After learning his trade he came to this village and became one of its foremost men as well as a prominent one in the County. He was appointed to the bench in 1816 and filled the position as Assistant Judge sixteen years. He was a delegate with Asa Starkweather, from the County to the Constitutional Convention of 1821, to frame that which is distinguished as the Second Constitution of New York.

Mr. Briggs in the Constitutional Convention of 1820 upon the rights of negro suffrage said :—

"We have come to universal suffrage, and I want we should fix it in the face of the instru-

ment. Gentlemen wish to get away from it, they endeavor to evade it. Sir! This distinction (negro suffrage) will help to weaken the breach. When we get to have such a population as the gentleman has described, our constitution will be good for nothing. We must carry the strong arm of the law to the cradle, sir, and let the rising generation know we have established the principle of universal suffrage, that they may prepare themselves accordingly, and qualify themselves to live under it."

Upon exemption of taxation, he said :—

"I am opposed to exclusive privileges, whether to manufacturers or clergy. If the latter are exempted, why should not deacons be exempted too? They are good men. And why not exempt the carpenter also, who builds the church, and the printer, who prints the bibles and psalm books?"

"Where should the line be drawn? I wish to shackle the Legislature, and prevent them from enacting such laws."

Mr. Briggs advocated annual elections for Governor, and in his remarks upon the motion said :—

"So it is with the people, they do not need any great advice, the imagination is to be thus worked up about elections. Some great dark project is afoot; the great circle for the election of Governor has come round, the other side are hard at work, and we must beware that they do not out-general us. Hand bills are afloat; demagogues are busy; but make the election annual, and all these squabbles and scuffles would have an end, there would not be thousands of dollars spent to secure a mere annual election. They would not excite the public mind.

"Sir! Who ought we to elect for Governor and officers, ambitious politicians? No! The modest man—who keeps retired—who says to himself, if my country wants any services let them come and ask me for them. He would disdain this bribery and corruption, he would only serve when his country wanted his services."

Merchants.—A miniature Borough, as the founders intended Esperance to become, could

not well do without a merchant. In those times a public house was the first thing to be established, the same as a "store" is at present in new hamlets. General North's companion-in-arms, Egbert Cumbleton, who held a commission of Major, under General Steuben, began the first store in 1805. Whether others embarked in the business at that time, tradition does not tell.

Major Cumbleton was an adept in military tactics and a brave soldier, but in a business point of view he was too liberal to succeed. Who followed him cannot be ascertained, but one Louis Candy, familiarly known as "Dr. Candy" and Charles Starin were here at an early date, about 1815, and remained a number of years.

James Turnbull, A. Billings, Alfred Isham and Henry Mandle, as Isham & Mandle, John Dewell and Robert L. Topping, were in business from one time to another, but perhaps not in the order in which they are here placed. The largest dealer that located here, and perhaps in the County, was Benjamin F. Wood, son of Dr. Wood, of Duaneburgh. Mr. Wood commenced some time before the Southern Rebellion and was during that period the largest produce dealer in Central New York, particularly in butter. Tons of that article were shipped almost daily, at prices that probably will be incredible, many years hence. At the commencement of that struggle the prices ranged from ten to twelve cents per pound, but ere it closed, fifty and fifty-five cents were often refused. All goods were proportionately high, and speculation was rife among all classes, in every department, which left a demoralizing chill upon business branches that years of pinching intrenchment only can drive away.

Since Mr. Wood closed his business, John O. Root, McIntosh & Turnbull, —Brumly, William Folensbee, Benjamin W. Clark and Martin Watson have engaged in trade, and George Briggs as the first and only druggist.

The village was incorporated in the year 1819 and not in the year 1832 as published in other works. April 21st of the latter year the charter for a fire company was obtained and the village charter was revised to meet the re-

quirements of the corporation upon certain proceedings. It was the only incorporated village in the County up to the year 1868. The post-office was established in 1805. The mail was carried, when the route was established in 1800, on horse, and the approach of the carrier was made known by his blowing a horn. How long the mail was thus carried we cannot say, but upon the advent of wagon and sleigh coaches the Phoenix Hotel was the central station between Albany and Cherry Valley. As the stage-coach epoch has long since passed away, leaving happy reminiscences to many who marked with delight the progression of the age, from foot and horseback mail carriers to golden striped rocking wagon "palaces," we will here copy an article published in the *Cobleskill Index* as a correction to a statement made in regard to the stage lines, by an unknown writer:—

"The first line of stages between Albany and Cherry Valley through Esperance, was run about 1826 and had three proprietors: Thorpe & Sprague owned the line from Albany here, twenty-six miles, and William Story of Cherry Valley the line from here to that place—known in the driver and passenger parlance of those days as "the Valley"—a like distance. Thorpe & Sprague had the mail contract from Albany to "the Valley" at one hundred dollars a mile, and as the distance was a shaving (not certain how thick) over fifty-two miles (the same generosity characterized our Uncle Samuel then as now) paid them five thousand three hundred dollars a year, for carrying the mail on their "four horse coaches" and they "pooled" the price with Story for carrying it over the west half of the route. Unfortunately for Mr. Story his agent in Albany discounted "futures"—just as the Fall River treasurers and secretaries do now, (by which it appears that human nature has not changed much in fifty years) and Mr. Story sold out his end of the line to John Wilkins of Cherry Valley and sometime (not very long) thereafter Sprague died and Thorpe sold out the Albany end, and the mail contract to William Platner of Cherry Valley, who run the line with Wilkins about two years, and then sold out to a Mr. Baker and a partner, whose name is already lost by the writer. Those men,

Baker & Co., sold out their interest in this Albany and Cherry Valley line, and other lines running east and north from Albany, to the "Reeds" of Rensselaer county—Stephentown I think—with the stock, running as well as rolling for thirty thousand dollars. This occurred somewhere about 1836, am not certain of the date, and for a number of years the Albany and "Valley" line,—but of course under reduced mail contract,—was run by Reed & Wilkins among whose drivers were "Elder" Williams and "Jumpy" Sprong, as well known to boy and man along their respective routes, and the traveling public, as the oldest conductor on the Central or Susquehanna to-day. Reed & Wilkins continued to own and run the line to 1841, by which time opposition to the Mohawk & Hudson (Albany & Schenectady) railroad, by the Reeds' stage-coach line to Schenectady had been abandoned. The Schenectady & Utica railroad was in operation and drawing passengers from the Cherry Valley and Albany stage route to Canajoharie; the Boston & Albany railroad (then known as the Western railroad) approached its western terminus (Albany) and the Reeds collapsed and John Hare bought their interest, the Albany end of the line, and ran it awhile with Wilkins. The latter was in a bad way financially and I think, but am not certain, handed the concern over to Ed. Wheeler; but finally sold out to John Vanetten of Cherry Valley who with Hare, ran the stage from here to Cherry Valley for two or three years. There was but one mail contract after the Vanetten and Hare."

Esperance Academy.—The old stone building upon the north side of Main street is an old land mark, around which cluster many pleasant memories. It was built for an exchange stable by John D. Dickinson, a noted horse jockey, and afterwards remodeled for an Academy about the year 1835, and used as such for several years.

Joshua M. Donaldson, soon after graduating at Union College, entered the school as Principal, and under his management it became one of the head schools of the country. McClelland followed, but not proving a financial success the

project dropped, and Peter D. Shinville occupied the building for a long term of years in the manufacture of fanning-mills, which met with ready demand, and were considered the best then in use. Of late the rustic appearing landmark has been used as a tenant house. About the year 1815 William Simpson established a cabinet shop, that for many years was one of the leading enterprises of the village. He was succeeded by Alexander Dean, who in turn gave place to Frederick Happe, the present business proprietor, and in whom is found one of those examples that the German people give to young Americans, by rising from a wandering immigrant, without means, or the language of the country at command, to an independence and prominence within a few years.

About 1820 to 1835 Esperance was quite a manufacturing point. There were two extensive chair factories in operation, that supplied the surrounding country with their wares. Henry Mandle, James Vilbert and James E. Downing, part of the time separately, at others as partners, were the leaders in the enterprise and did a large and successful business. During that time the paper-mill was run to its utmost capacity, by Dr. Leonard, which made the place present a lively appearance.

Feathers House.—The building was occupied by Larkin Feathers, and was built for a store about the year 1820, and occupied for several years as such. It was subsequently changed to an "Inn" and one of the first proprietors was Gitty Lawyer, of Schoharie, a woman skilled in money getting. A young law student, coming from the Eastern States, being unable to bear the expense of "board" and other necessities, became enamored with the proprietress, or her money, and in due time they were married. Then having the means he acquitted himself in the armour of the law, and sought a home in the wilds of Michigan, then the point to which immigration was pouring, to be followed, perhaps, by his loving spouse, when he decided upon a location.

After waiting a number of years without a word from him to cheer her, the wife and landlady equipped herself with horse and wagon to seek her accomplished lord, not unmindful of

the convenience of a stove in the family, which she took with her, and an abundance of clothing.

She traveled alone and upon her arrival at Detroit, instead of meeting the husband, who was apprised of her coming, she met a friend of his who told her that her husband was deeply in debt, and if she remained her funds would be seized to liquidate them.

Appreciating the hard earned dollars, she turned her face homeward, leaving her lover to worry his creditors as best he could. That same man, William A. Fletcher, became the first judge upon the present Ninth Judicial Circuit of Michigan, which position is now held by another Schoharie County boy, Hon. Josiah L. Hawes, a native of Carlisle, and student of Joseph H. Ramsey.

Jeremiah Peck erected an "Inn" upon the northwest corner of Main and Church streets, about the year 1818, and kept it as such until his death, and was followed by Mrs. Peck and children. The chief business was done at the bar, while other houses' profits came from lodgers, meals and stabling.

There was another inn built at the west end of Main street, upon the brow of the hill, by Levitt Mansfield, about the year 1826, and during its last days was kept by George Smith, but its portals have long since been closed, and only the Feathers House furnishes accommodation for the public at the present time. In passing along to the west, one mile and one half, snugly nestled in a hollow was another tavern, whose accommodations were equally as extended as those of the village.

General John S. Brown followed his father in its management, and made a specialty in furnishing feed for the droves of live-stock that crowded the thoroughfare.

In the last days of its usefulness as a public house, other landlords loved to tell the traveler of the hideous "spooks" and unearthly noises that were seen and heard nightly within its walls. Judson and Ager, each followed General Brown, and under the latter, the old building was torn down to give room for the present spacious frame house. Near to the west, a toll-

gate was built in 1810, through which each teamster and drover was obliged to deposit in the company's treasury, pay for the privilege of traveling upon the road. Who was the first gate-keeper we are unable to learn, but one Cleveland was receiver for many years, and in fact was in office when this part of the turnpike was annulled by the company.

The first gate-keeper at the bridge was Bartholomew Keene, and the present one is Mrs. Obediah Sprong, who has stood at her post day and night for twenty-nine years, performing her duty faithfully. Her husband died many years since, and was a coach driver during the palmy days of this thoroughfare, and familiarly called "Jumpy." None knew how to draw the "ribbons," or "clip the ears" of the leaders with the coach whip, better than "Jumpy." While referring to the "drivers" we cannot but mention Walter Wood, ——— Williams, known as "Elder," George Chilson and John Bradt, who were the "regulars" for many long years. Thousands of passengers and an immensity of valuables were entrusted to their care, and we fail to find an instance that a death, injury or loss occurred. One driver made the trip from this place to Cherry Valley, but changed horses at Sharon Hollow or Hill. The "Elder" was the principal driver at this end of the route, and drove a four-horse team daily from here to Sharon during eighteen years.

To give an idea of the amount of business the stage line did before the Central Railroad was in operation, we are authorized by an old driver to say, that from forty to one hundred and fifty passengers were daily booked at Cherry Valley, for Albany and intermediate points.

The travel upon the road, otherwise than by coach, was also immense. An extoll collector informs us that the monthly returns of the Esperance bridge gate were usually one thousand dollars; and that seven hundred teams had been counted that passed through in a day. Thus we can plainly see the cause of such numbers of taverns built along the line, and not think it an erroneous statement when the aged ones tell us, they "failed to meet the requirements of the traveling public."

SLOANSVILLE.

While we have been contemplating Esperance village when it was a pine forest, down to the present time, musing over the changes that progress has made from time to time, we must not harbor the idea that when the first tree was felled at that village no other white man had settled in this "remote region," as in passing up the turnpike, near the present residence of John Schuyler, upon the hill to the east of his house, John Joseph Van Valkenburgh, a German Palatine, settled as early as 1756 or 1760, and made quite a clearing. When Johnson and Brant invaded the valley he saw the smoke arising over the hills, and divined the cause. With his wife and children he started for the "middle fort," passing the lower one upon the hills to the east, and gained the fortress near dark. He quit his pioneer farm and joined the patriots as a scout, and proved one of the most brave and trusty ones. At the close of the war he settled in Sharon, as stated in Chapter XV. Nor must we think that Sloansville was among the things that were to be, as here we find a path—as old perhaps, as the aborigines of the country, leading from the Mohawk to the Schoharie valley, treading which, the Germans of each valley were enabled to visit and barter with each other, nearly seventy-five years before a settlement was here made. By the side of this path we find three brothers settled as early as 1785 or 1786. John, James and George Brown purchased a portion of the "stone heap" patent, and built a log house upon the ground where Mrs. Spenser Foster's house now stands. They cleared up the land south of the house, and in after years built another one upon the Baptist church site. It being upon the Indian path and the Germans traveling that route quite often, induced the brothers to commence the tavern business for their accommodation when thirsty and weary.

Soon after, the brother, John, desirous of having a separate home, built a log house upon the McIntosh place, and when the turnpike was constructed he built another at a very short distance to the south of the first, to be enabled to accommodate the workmen. The following years, 1805 and 1806, the road was finished

through to Carlisle, and the company was permitted to erect a toll-gate at this place, and Brown received the appointment of gate-keeper. He built a gate or swinging-pole from one house to the other, and received toll until the road was completed to Cherry Valley according to contract, when the gate was abandoned and the one near Esperance established. The company was obliged to finish a certain number of miles of road before a gate was allowed, and it was not finished acceptably to the Valley until 1810. While liberal inducements were offered to construct the road, yet the company were under restraints, and were obliged to keep it in repair, which was an expensive task owing to the vast amount of travel, and if the road became bad, complaints were made to the County turnpike inspectors, by notice, who could compel the gate-keeper to allow all teams to pass through without toll, until the road was repaired and accepted by him.

James Brown kept the inn where the church stands, and he sold the property to Captain William and John R. Sloan upon their coming here about the year 1800. Brown settled in Carlisle

The Sloans were active men, and were engaged in after years, in connection with the hotel, in the manufacture of chip goods, but upon the burning of the building, about 1825, the enterprise was abandoned. Quite a number of settlers came from New Jersey and Rhode Island in 1788 and settled principally north of the village upon the hill, among whom were John Teeple, Stephen Crocker (now in Carlisle) and Abram Montaney—whose descendants still occupy the pioneer homes and are prominent citizens.

John and Gideon Larkin also came from Rhode Island about 1803 and settled here for awhile. John was a Revolutionary soldier, and removed to Carlisle, while Gideon located upon the hill southwest of the village and was followed in the possession of the farm by his sons Gideon, Jr. and Israel whose honesty and integrity none dared assail. The children of John were Daniel, Jehiel and Phineas, who have been prominent men of the County as business men and agriculturists.

About the year 1795, the father of the Brown brothers also came with his son Henry and settled with James upon what was after owned by, and known as the "Grum" farm. Henry built an inn upon the turnpike as has already been stated, John sold his interest in the present McIntosh place and purchased farther down the turnpike and built the "Inn" to which we referred and the brick house in which his son General Brown resided.

The store now occupied by J. H. Crandal was built by the Brown Brothers and occupied by them for a while but passed into other hands and in the year 1838 Jehiel Larkin, became the owner and occupant and for a number of years carried on the mercantile business. He was followed by his nephew Alexander Larkin, whose early death placed the present occupant in his stead. The Sloans built the store, long occupied by Stephen Teeple, about the year 1820.

Who the builder and first occupant of Daniel Gallup's store was, we are unable to learn.

Robert McMaster came from Rhode Island about the year 1800 and after learning the tanner's trade in the town of Florida, Montgomery county, he settled here in 1805. He married the daughter of James Brown and was one of those quiet, unassuming men who command the confidence and respect of those with whom they come in contact. He became independent by his careful and economical mode of doing business and died in 1877 at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. He was followed in his business by his son James B. McMaster who has held the office of Justice of the Peace nearly twenty years and represented the town upon the Board of Supervisors in 1858 and 1859.

As we have made mention of the fact that the mail was first carried over the road on horse, we will here state that this place was made a post-station, where the riders changed horses. Three changes were made between Albany and Cherry Valley, the first being at Cheesbro's, the second here and the third at Wales or Moak's Hollow, and afterwards at "Hiller's" or Sharon Centre. It was a lonely route, but thinly settled and a very uneven road.

The post-office was not established here we believe until 1817 through the influence of General Thomas Lawyer then in Congress.

David Phelps, of Connecticut, came here as a wagon maker, about the year 1806 or 1807, and was followed by his brothers Gaius and Sylvester. The former was a hatter and carried on the business largely and successfully for more than a quarter of a century. He closed the business with a competency in 1850, and died at the age of eighty, beloved by all who knew him.

Sylvester worked with his brother David, and after a few years became a driving business man. The present "Dopp Hotel" was partly built by David K. Larkin, who was something of a speculator, and in his trafficking received from Sylvester, wagons for the property. Phelps finished the house and became a "landlord" in 1836. He afterwards traded wagons for a farm and in connection with his trade managed the hotel and farm. As money was a scarce article, every means was employed, to substitute something for it. The wagons were traded off for horses among the farmers, and the horses taken to the Eastern States to be sold for cash, thus making a lively traffic among the speculators, tradesmen and farmers. When Sylvester Phelps was in his prime in years, he made this little hamlet as busy a place as could be found for many miles around.

Taverns.—There were formerly four "Taverns" in the place, each doing a good business. The one, of late years known as the "Widow Moore's place," was for a long time the drovers home, as Mrs. Moore's first husband, Gilchrist, was a drover and intimate with all of the clan that frequented the turnpike. Besides, accommodations were always to be had, as a large farm was connected with the hotel. Upon the death of Gilchrist she married one Moore, with whom she did not entrust her business affairs, much to his disgust, and he left her "alone in her glory." She became very avaricious, and during her last years in business, the indifferent manner of keeping the hotel, drove the old-time customers away, consequently the profits of hotel keeping became

small. A few rods below, where John Hoag now resides, was a spacious inn kept for many years, by Walter Sloan, but it was long since closed, and the old house presents a picture of rural prosperity and contentment under the care of its present owner, such as the general outlook of public houses never guaranteed.

The First Baptist Church in the County was organized here in 1810, and an edifice built the year following. It stood upon the hill east of the village, and the "Cornish residue."

The society was organized by the veteran, E. Herrick, and was divided through some doctrinal point, that created the "New School" about the year 1841. The seceders erected the present edifice in 1842. The old church society dwindled to a name only, and the church was sold to the Methodists in 1868, who removed it to its present location.

There was, until within the period of twenty years, a few rods north of the village, upon the lands of Hiram Brand and once occupied by Sylvester Phelps, an immense stone heap.

From that pile, the tract of land granted to John Bowen and others in 1770 was named the "Stone heap patent." The stones had been accumulated for a long series of years, by the accession of single stones thrown upon the pile by each passing Indian. Its dimensions were, four rods long, nearly two wide and about ten feet in height, in its original form, consisting of small flat stones, which must have been many thousands in number. This pile beside giving the name to "Bowen's patent," also marked an angle in the original division line between Albany and old Tryon county. Rev. Gideon Hawley, a missionary among the Mohawks, Oneidas and Aquagos, traveled the path that lead by the heap, in 1753, in company with another missionary, Mr. Woodbridge and an Indian guide. They started from General William Johnson's residence on the Mohawk, to visit Schoharie, and in an account of the journey he says:—

"We came to a resting place and breathed our horses, and slaked thirst at the stream, when we perceived our Indian looking for a stone, which having found, he cast to a heap,

which for ages has been accumulating by passengers like him, who was our guide. We enquired why he observed that rite. His answer was that his father practiced it and enjoined it on him."

The gentleman also mentions in the same narrative:—

"I have observed in every part of the country and among every tribe of Indians, and among those where I now am, in a particular manner, such heaps of stones or sticks collected on the like occasion as the above. The largest heap I ever observed is that large collection of small stones on the mountain between Stockbridge and Great Barrington. We have a sacrifice rock, as it is termed, between Plymouth and Sandwich, to which stones and sticks are always cast by Indians who pass it. This custom or rite is an acknowledgement of an invisible being; we may style him the Unknown God, whom this people worship.

"This heap is their altar; the stone that is collected is the oblation of the traveler, which if offered with good mind may be as acceptable as a consecrated animal."

It has been conjectured that this stone heap marked the grave of a warrior, but we think otherwise, from the fact that the Indians who frequented this section had particular burial grounds, and when a chief or warrior died, or was slain, they carried the remains to those grounds, unless it was a great distance from them. It was not an uncommon occurrence for the Mohawks and Oneidas to carry their dead from Schoharie to their homes. An aged person of veracity related to us an instance that was told to him by his father, who was a witness to the occurrence, and which undoubtedly was but one of many hundred. An Oneida died at Schoharie in one of the fall months, and his body was wrapped in blankets and placed in a tall hemlock tree, beyond the reach of wild animals. When winter came and a crust was formed upon the snow, the body was taken down and bound upon a sled, and drawn to Oneida. We are of the opinion that if an Indian was slain at this spot and was so highly honored by his race as to receive such marks of honor and remembrance as this pile exhibited,

they would certainly take the pains to carry and place him by the side of the "ashes of his fathers."

We are led to concur in the missionary's idea as he states farther on. "These stone heaps are erected to a local deity." His long intercourse with the race, learning their customs and habits so well gives weight to his opinion.

The "stone heap" patent was surveyed and divided into lots in 1792, and embraced a portion of Esperance, Carlisle and Charleston, Montgomery county.

Passing down the old Indian path, which is now a well beaten road, we come to the old grist-mill that has rumbled for over fifty years. In its early days it was the only mill in the town. Spencer Foster, an Englishman by birth, built a steam mill a few rods below and carried on a large custom business for many years, but not proving a very profitable investment it was taken down and we see a spacious barn stands in its stead.

Passing on, we soon come to the Schoharie stream, and if we had stood here the day the first tree was felled by the Brown boys in 1786, and looked over the flats to the south, we might have seen large farms divided into meadow, plow, and pasture fields—spacious barns and houses reared over the ashes of former ones that had fallen by the torch of a savage foe, in a fierce war against a nation that plead for liberty and independence.

There stood a settlement made in 1729, and known as *Kneiskern's Dorf*. The whole of the original settlement is not in the town of Esperance, but the greater part was, and we will refer to the whole here. By the second chapter of this work we find that

John Peter Kneiskern,
Godfrit Kneiskern,
Lambert Sternberg,
Philip Berg,
Hendrick Houck,
Hendrick Strubach,
Johannes Merkle,

were the first settlers. John Peter Kneiskern was the head man of the colony as at the Camps, and was the business man. He settled

upon the farm now owned by William Shout, who is a descendant of the family, and the only one left in the neighborhood. The ancient papers relating to the settlement are in his possession in perfect order, beside the family Bible and old clock, to which Mr. Shout clings with pride and as sacred relics of his grandsires. The old clock reaching nearly to the ceiling, still keeps time for this, the fifth generation, as it did for the first, and is still

"Ticking the moments as they swiftly fly,
And whispering to all—Eternity."

During the war it was secreted beneath limbs and leaves in the woods east of the house, and remained unmolested. Mr. Shout's mother was a grand-daughter of Kneiskern, and Mrs. Shout is a descendant of the original Houck family that settled by the side of Kneiskern, where Jacob Houck now resides. Thus we see that the old families are united by stronger ties than those of neighbors. We find that a firm, brotherly feeling existed between the first settlers, that is without a parallel at the present time. They all purchased together, as one, and not until several years passed did they make a division of their property and lands, and when they did, we find they drew an article of agreement, that "If any one should lose any part of their lands by law or otherwise, the rest should make it up to him or her." Such acts of true Christian charity towards the unfortunate can only be found in the honest simplicity of our German fathers and mothers.

Johannes Merkle settled farther down the valley upon the farm now owned, in part, by Henry Dunberg. There are but few of this family left bearing the name in this immediate vicinity, but farther down the creek distant relatives reside, whose ancestors settled there several years after the settlement was here made.

Henry Strubach settled upon the farm long owned by the late Adam P. Vrooman. The old house stood east of Vrooman's barn but has long since vanished. Christian his son, resided here through the Revolution and held a commission as Captain. He was a daring soldier and the Indians and Tories employed various means to capture him, but his sagacity foiled their plans. He was at the "lower

fort" when Johnson and Brant made the attack and in company with the Schoharie militia the day following, in harrassing the rear. When the first company of the Fifteenth Regiment was formed, Strubach was chosen First Lieutenant and George Mann Captain, but upon Mann's proving to be infected with disloyalty, Strubach was promoted to Captain. Several brothers lived near each other upon the lands their father purchased but all have gone to their long homes without leaving a single heir to perpetuate the name. They lived to extreme ages and died suddenly without sickness, as did their children. Henry Strubach built a grist-mill, the frame of which still stands (or a part of it) and is distinguished as the "old mill" now owned by Abram Becker.

Philip Berg settled lower down the creek upon the west side, where Alexander Larkin's house now stands and reared two sons, Philip and Abram. The latter remained upon the old place and became a very wealthy man for his day, and was succeeded in the possession of it by his son David Berg, who disposed of the property to Herman Gardner in 1842, after it had been in the possession of the family for the period of one hundred and thirteen years. It was the best property in the valley but it has been cut up in various ways and nothing is left of its primitive appearance.

About the year 1760, Abram Berg purchased of a small band of Indians that had an encampment upon the "Cripple bush," a tract of land lying upon the side hill, between that stream and the Cobleskill, in part occupied by Peter VanZant, John Brayman and the heirs of the late Peter I. Enders. The consideration was one barrel of cider and a fat two year old steer and the privilege of drinking and eating the same and holding a "pow wow" beneath a white oak tree, still standing not far from the Berg mansion. After the "pow wow" they left the country and never returned, and Abram ever after held peaceful possession of the purchase. The old family together with the original Strubach's lie here upon the farm, in a neglected spot covered with briars and brambles, as also the remains of the brave Captain Strubach.

Philip Berg son of Philip settled upon the farm now owned by William Hallenbeck and was familiarly called "Lipps Barrack" it being the German of Philip Berg. His old house stood to the west of the Hallenbeck barn, some distance in the field and had an entry or "stoop," (as formerly called,) in front. Nearly all of the first settlers' dwellings had a lintel attached in front, that resembled the piazza of the present day enclosed. A double door invariably was used, the upper of which was seldom closed, but the lower always, except upon the ingress and egress of the family. This Berg building was erected immediately after the Revolution. Mrs. Berg with other women and two or three babies, during the war were upon the flat north of the present Central Bridge pulling flax, when a band of Indians came along the bank of the stream without observing them. They hid in the bushes and being fearful lest their babies would make a noise and betray them, they put their handkerchiefs in their mouths and nearly strangled them before the Indians passed. It was afterwards ascertained that they were watching an opportunity of capturing Captain Strubach while on his way to and from the fort, and that they had a fruitless watch of two weeks.

The Captain's eyes were also open and while they could not see him, he daily saw their movements. Thus it was, in those times, danger was lurking near when they least expected it, and wherever they were, they were compelled to be upon the watch each moment, and as they lay upon their beds at night to rest, they knew not but the morning might find them tortured prisoners or mangled corpses.

Godfrit Kneiskern settled upon the late Peter I. Ender's farm. What relation he was to John Peter cannot be told, nor what became of his descendants. Perhaps a son settled at Beaver Dam, as we find a family there after 1754, from whom came the Kneiskerns of Carlisle, and those along the Cobleskill west of this place. They were related to John Peter, but in what degree we cannot learn.

John Peter's family were true patriots during the Revolution, while those already mentioned were well tinctured with disloyalty, with the ex-

ception of two members, William and Jacob, the former being the one taken prisoner at Moak's Hollow, and afterwards settled near Seward Valley.

Lambert Sternbergh settled the farthest south of the seven families, upon the farm now owned in part by William Landrum. He became one of the fifteen purchasers of "Dorlach Patent" and upon the division of the lots those lands now occupied by his descendants in the town of Seward became his. In 1768 we find Lambert dead and his son Jacob acting in his stead. Hendrick Houck, as we stated, settled by the side of Kneiskern, and the property still is held by the family. The family has always been a prominent one of the town in an official, agricultural and business point of view.

Bartram Entis came to this settlement in 1731 or 1732, and purchased lands of Hendrick Houck, that lay outside of the "Dorf purchase." At the same time Harmonus Sidrick also came and purchased one thousand acres down the creek.

Where those two men came from we cannot learn, but conjecture they came directly from Germany in the third Palatine immigration that settled mostly east of Canada creek, upon the Mohawk. As the descendants of Entis are quite numerous, we will here state that the name was changed in after years to Entres, and subsequently to Enders, as written at the present time. Bartram had two sons, Peter and John, from whom sprang the present families in this valley. We are not positive, but think there were other sons, who settled upon the Mohawk. Peter was a soldier in the Revolution and lost his building by the torch of Johnson, in 1780. His grandsons Jacob P., and Peter I., were large agriculturists and wealthy men, and the fathers of the present families that bear the name in and around the old "Dorf."

Jacob P. occupied the old homestead and met an untimely death in crossing the stream. The current being strong, he was carried by it to a watery grave, and was followed in the possession of the property by his son John, who was a true type of a just and exemplary man. He was instantly killed in the spring of 1880, by a runaway team. Peter I., lived to a ripe

old age and died after a lingering illness in the same year. The Sidrick family name has also been changed and is now written Sidney.

John Peter Kneiskern built the first grist-mill at this place and in the town. It was a small affair, however, to merely crack the grain, and stood upon the little rivulet that runs from the high ground south of Mr. Shout's residence. The mill stood until the year 1780. Jacob Kobell, a resident of Weiser's dorf has the honor of building the first mill upon the Cobleskill Creek, at this place, which we doubt belongs to him. Judge Brown wrote his "Brief Sketch of the First Settlement of Schoharie" in 1817, which was published in 1823, while he was in the full possession of his mental faculties, and of the affair he says, "so called after the name of a certain man who cleared a spot at the outlet, under pretence of building a mill thereon, but *was never brought to pass.*" Author Simms visited the Judge in 1837, when he had arrived at the age of ninety-two, and upon his questioning him in regard to the mill he "thought he had been to mill there." The mill which Brown had visited, unquestionably was the Kneiskern mill to which we have alluded.

There is no doubt but Kobell or some one else, intended to build a mill here, as a small "runner" was found upon the bank of the creek many years ago by the late Samuel Smith, and which is now to be seen beneath a post in Charles Rich's cow-shed, but no other evidence is shown that a mill was here. The Kneiskern mill was burned by Johnson and Brant in 1780, as were all other buildings of the dorf, and upon the close of the war the Strubach (more recently pronounced Strubrack) family built one nearly upon the ground of the present old mill, and at a later date the Houcks built one upon the Schoharie creek nearly opposite of the family mansion, but owing to the caving of the banks, it was taken down. In regard to the name of the Cobleskill mill we will refer the reader to that chapter.

The stone or "runner" found upon the bank was perhaps brought from some of the mills at Schoharie or Weiser's, that had been discarded for larger ones. It is a common sand-stone, and does not show much use. During the Revolution

the settlers of this "dorf" were loyal to the Colonial cause and met with severe losses by the torch. When the invasion of Johnson occurred, a few of the families were at the Lower Fort, but the most of them fled to the hills upon each side of the creek. The Enders, Sidney and the Merkles built a small hut upon the rise of ground to the east, which was out of the regular path of the foe, and to it they resorted, when danger was near and too short notice given to reach the fort. For the protection and better convenience of these settlers, a small block-house was built in the year 1782, near the residence of George Taylor, to which they removed as long as the war lasted. Being destitute of houses at that time and not being able to rebuild, or run the chances of losing again, they all made the block-house their home. The most valuable of their effects were secreted in the woods, and when Johnson came down the valley, the people were better prepared than those above, having a timely warning of his approach.

After Johnson had laid the valley in ashes, he crossed the creek with his force at the upper end of the island below the old ferry and encamped for the night between the "valley cemetery" and the creek to the west. The day's laurels must have weighed heavily upon the "Christian faith's defender's" agent, and the enlightened chieftain Brant. Their proceedings throughout the day failed to show, either military skill or commendable bravery, but on the contrary, inability and cowardice, and proved them to be a sneaking band of cutthroats and fit companions of incarnate fiends. The next day they followed the Indian path to the Mohawk to seek other fields for plunder and murder, with the awakened militia of the Schoharie valley at their rear, to punish them for their cowardly acts.

The town at present is without manufactures except local milling and has but three hotels, where at one time could be counted ten within the distance of six miles.

The town is beautifully located, as from nearly every point the whole can be seen and presents a very even and well cultivated appearance.

It was formed through the efforts of Judge Wright, then State senator from Schoharie, in February, 1846, and on the 19th of May following, the first town meeting was held, and the following officers elected:—

Supervisor—John S. Brown.

Justices—George Taylor and Wm. B. Abell.

Clerk—Stephen Teeple.

Collector—George Crocker.

Superintendent of Schools—Lorenzo I. Leonard, M. D.

Assessors—George A. Smith, David Berg.

Constables—Nathaniel Eggleston and Henry Merkle.

John S. Brown now resides in Duanesburgh, and is a son of the first settler of Sloansville, John Brown. He was elected sheriff of the County in 1842, at the time the "Anti-rent" war created so much excitement in several counties of the State.

While blood was drawn in other localities we are pleased to state the vigilance of General Brown in procuring a well-armed force saved the County the disgrace of a rebellion, as will be seen by consulting Chapter IV. The Anti's weapon, tar and feathers, was but very sparingly used in this county, although sheriff Brown and deputy Tobias Bouck, barely escaped a luxuriant coat.

This town has been represented in the Assembly four times since its organization.

Hon. Lewis Rockwell in 1851.

Hon. John Lovett in 1856.

Hon. Joseph Buckbee in 1861.

Hon. William S. Clark in 1867-1868.

Mr. Rockwell was a native of the town. Mr. Lovett was born in Vermont, and was for many years a tin and hardware dealer at Esperance. He was a man of sterling worth; but in the bloom of manhood he fell a victim to the slow, but sure disease, consumption, lamented by all who knew him. Mr. Buckbee, familiarly known as Uncle Joe, has been a resident of the place for many years, as well as the active citizen, ever looking to the comfort of others, and especially the welfare of the place. Mr. Clark was born in Carlisle, and early fitted himself for the bar, and settled at Sloansville, as the

first one of the profession, and what is very singular, the only one in the town at the present time, that but a few years since contained several.

When the Southern Rebellion shook our country to its center, this town proved itself loyal, by furnishing both men and money. The records of the town are, as we find in most sister towns, unable to give accurate statistics of the number and amount.

SUPERVISORS.

The supervisors of the town have been:—

- 1846—John S. Brown.
- 1847—Charles Knox.
- 1848—Lewis Rockwell.
- 1849—Lewis Rockwell.
- 1850—Spencer Foster.
- 1851—John E. Mann.
- 1852—John E. Mann.
- 1853—Horace D. Phelps.
- 1854—Horace D. Phelps.
- 1855—John Lovett.
- 1856—Storrs Messenger.
- 1857—Storrs Messenger.
- 1858—James B. McMaster.
- 1859—James B. McMaster.
- 1860—J. M. Donaldson.
- 1861—J. M. Donaldson.
- 1862—Jehiel Larkin.
- 1863—Jehiel Larkin.
- 1864—Jesse A. Tubbs.
- 1865—Cornelius O. Dorn.
- 1866—Alexander Larkin.
- 1867—Alexander Larkin.
- 1868—James Van Vechten.
- 1869—James Van Vechten.
- 1870—James H. Crandall.
- 1871—James H. Crandall.
- 1872—James Van Vechten.
- 1873—James Van Vechten.
- 1874—Jehiel Larkin.
- 1875—James Van Vechten.
- 1876—James Van Vechten.
- 1877—James Van Vechten.
- 1878—James Van Vechten.
- 1879—James Van Vechten.
- 1880—M. W. Stevens.
- 1881—M. W. Stevens.
- 1882—M. W. Stevens.

STATISTICS.

When the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad was built, the town gave bonds to the amount of thirty thousand dollars, to aid in its construction. By the report of the supervisor upon the first day of November, 1878, there was yet remaining unpaid,

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Principal..... | \$18,000 |
| Interest on the same..... | 1,288 |

Total yet due.....\$19,288

The town consists of 11,360 acres of land. The assessed valuation of real estate is \$502,670; and of personal property, \$157,424; number of names on the tax list, 422.

The first Baptist church in the County was built in Sloansville, in 1811. The organization was effected some time previous, by Rev. E. Herrick. The building stood upon the turn-pike, east of the residence of Mr. Harvey Cornish, and was purchased by the Methodists and removed to its present site in 1852. The present Baptist church was erected in 1842, it being of the "New School" order, while the original one was of the "Old."

The most prominent men of the town besides those already mentioned, were, and are,

Charles Hemstead,
William Wood,
Henry Mandie,
William Simpson,
A. Billings,
Alfred Isham,
John Duell,
Dr. Rowland,
James McMaster,
H. Shurburn,
J. O. Root,
M. W. Stevens,
Jerome Dwelly,
S. Teeple,
David Enders,
Daniel Gallup,
Jesse Tubbs,
Erastus Williams.

In 1832 the *Schoharie Free Press* was removed from Schoharie to Esperance village,



Wm. S. Clark

and the name changed to *Esperance Sentinel and Schoharie and Montgomery County Reporter*.

It was edited by Duncan McDonald, whose wife was a daughter of Horatio Gates Spafford, the author of "Spaffords Gazetteer." Mrs. McDonald was a fluent writer, and added much talent to the columns of the paper. The *Sentinel* was "Anti-Masonic," and the copy before us of October, 1832, has the following nominations made by that party, at the head of its columns:—

For President—William West.

For Vice-President—Amos Ellmaker.

For Governor—Francis Granger.

For Elector—John Gebhard.

The editorial says:—

"We entertain strong hopes that Schoharie is about to shake off the yoke of the regency and Masonic coalition and take the place she

formerly occupied among the old Democratic counties of the State, redeemed, regenerated, disenthralled."

The sheet was discontinued in 1836.

The town comprises nearly the whole of Jacob and Hendrick Ten Eyck's patent which was granted in 1739 and surveyed in 1761.

Lewis Morris' and A. Coeymans' grant of 1726, lying at Kneiskern's dorf is mostly in the town, also a portion of the Schoharie patent, purchased in 1714, by Myndert Schuyler and others, and surveyed in 1726, running north and south on the west of Ten Eyck's grant. Lawyer & Zimmer's second allotment of 1768 also takes in a portion of the town upon the west and north of Morris & Coeymans', while the "Stone heap patent" of 1770 lies to the north and west of it and extends into the county of Montgomery.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

HON. WILLIAM S. CLARK.

Mr. Clark's grandparents, who were born in Dutchess county, settled in Coeymans, Albany county, during the year 1773. His paternal grandfather being unable to endure the privations of pioneer life, died at the age of thirty-two. His maternal grandfather, Reuben Stanton, was among those who by their vigor and hardihood, contributed much to clear up the wilderness in Coeymans, in the days when homes were never safe in consequence of the depredations of marauders, from the army in the war preceding the Revolution. He was for some years a licentiate in the Baptist church and was regularly ordained by that denomination in 1793, continuing to preach until he was disqualified by age. Mr. Clark's

parents settled on a farm in Carlisle, in 1813, where he was born, and where his father died in 1849.

Mr. Clark was favored with good educational opportunities, having attended some of the academies of Schoharie and Madison counties. He was a teacher during several winters, and then chose law as a profession; he graduated from the Albany law school in the spring of 1858, and returned to Sloansville, where he now resides. Since then, however, he has gratified his desire for travel, to a great extent, and has also been identified with all movements of public interest in his locality, yet devoting himself to the practice of his profession, in which his interest and status is shown by his partici-

pation in the organization of the New York State Bar Association, and present membership in that body.

In the year 1850, Mr. Clark was elected town superintendent of common schools in Carlisle, and was commissioner of excise during the years 1862, 1863 and 1864. He was nominated by acclamation by the Democrats, and elected without opposition to the Assembly of 1867, and was renominated and returned the following year by a majority of one thousand, seven hundred and seventy-eight, leading his ticket just one hundred.

During the war, his talents and influence were exerted to sustain the government, by addressing war and bounty meetings, and encouraging volunteering, both in his own and the surrounding counties. He has always been a Democrat, and various political articles from his pen, which have appeared through the public press, among them his discussion of the proposed constitutional convention in 1858, and of the constitutional modifications suggested in the convention of 1867—display a repleteness of ideas and a vigor of analysis above the ordinary cast of mind. The position taken by Mr. Clark in the Legislature of 1867, was recognized by his appointment by Speaker Pitts, as a member of the joint committee to investigate the management of the canals.

His ability and legislative experience made him quite a prominent candidate for Speaker of the House in 1868, for which position he received favorable commendations from the press, but in deference to the unanimity of the New York delegation and in recognition of the claim of the New York Democracy, Mr. Clark withdrew from the canvass prior to the caucus.

Following our natural expectations from such antecedents, Mr. Clark's conception of Legislative duties is not confined to mere local interests but embraces within its scope, legislation of a general character; and the comprehensive-

ness both of his views and his familiarity with the requirements of the people, is indicated by the bills introduced by him in relation to the registry, assessment and highway laws of the State. He also rendered efficient aid to the Albany & Susquehanna railroad passing in the Assembly the bill which gave \$250,000 State aid to that project, by a vote of seventy-six, thus assuring the early success of that enterprise whose value is now so well known.

Mr. Clark, having been a member of the select committee on canals in 1867, and the Legislature of 1868 preferring articles of impeachment against R. C. Dorn, then ex-canal commissioner, he was appointed by Speaker Hitchman as one of the managers on the part of the Assembly, in the prosecution of the impeachment, and took an active part in the conduct of the trial. The versatility of Mr. Clark's attainments and his standing in the Assembly are further shown by his appointment as one of a select committee to examine, during the recess, the historic relics in the collection of S. G. Eddy, of Stillwater, N. Y., and J. R. Simms of Fort Plain. His report on the subject was full and explicit, having the concurrence of his colleagues, resulting in the securing to the State the more valuable of the collections. In debate he was ready, forcible, logical and at all times eloquent, always having the attention of the Assembly; and by his suavity of manner and geniality of nature, secured not only the good will, but the personal regard of all his associates in the House. In his position as Chairman of the Committee on Internal Affairs of Towns and Counties, he was indefatigable in his labors to facilitate the progress of the measures submitted to the scrutiny of the committee. He served also on the Committee on Charitable and Religious Societies, and on Local General Orders.

Mr. Clark is still in the full vigor of life, enjoys a good joke or a keen sarcasm with the same zest that an epicure relishes his salads,

and we doubt not that his versatile intelligence and recognized ability will secure for him higher positions and larger trusts; and however high the position the future may assign him, he will discharge its duties with fidelity unquestioned and honor untarnished.

Our subject also has a finely cultivated literary taste and exhibits in his composition a certain vim and dash which excite and insure one's admiration. His "Memoir of Charles Howard Phelps" which was written for the trustees of Dudley observatory, and subsequently published by them, is a chaste and beautiful tribute to the memory of one whose whole soul was inspired with the grandeur of astronomy and whose life trembled at the impressions of those master thoughts which seem to transfigure the whole being.

Mr. Clark's address delivered at the centennial anniversary of the Seward Massacre in 1780, held at Seward, October 18, 1880, in the presence of a large gathering of people from the surrounding country, possesses so much that is grand and eloquent that we here published it in full:—

"Mr. President and fellow citizens, mine the pleasing, though somewhat laborious and difficult task, to gather up the raveled threads of the events which these scenes recall, and in memory of which we are assembled, and weave them the best I may, into chapters of this day's proceedings, to make the volume of their history which shall cheer, encourage and inspire your descendants through coming generations and all the future. The same sky is over us; we inhale air of the same balminess and invigorating power; the same beauty of landscape with its undulating plain, gentle sloping hillside and towering mountain, environs this spot as it did a hundred years ago.

"But how different the other surroundings and accessories of this and that afternoon! The danger which lurked in the shadow of every rock and tree as the stillness of the night set-

tled upon the earth, and ambushed in every road-side, bush or thicket in the bright sunlight of mid-day, is forever dispelled; prosperity abounds on every side; peace serenely and securely sits everywhere in these fruitful valleys and among those beautiful hills; safety abides under every roof-tree, and security, joy, and happiness dwell with you in all your homes. And all this contrast because the settlers of New Dorlach were patriots!

"'Twas in the cause of liberty and freedom that John France fell, and Catharine, fairest of the fair, was sacrificed. To commemorate their lives and keep green the memory of this ruthless sacrifice, by every means in your power, is the noblest work in the lives of their descendants, and can but inspire in the hearts of you all, emotions of gratitude that the patriot fathers and mothers throughout the length and breadth of Tryon county as well as those of New Dorlach, endured the trials, bore the burden of privation, suffering and sorrow, with a fortitude and heroism beside which, in the world's history, occurs neither its equal nor parallel, and must beget in you all a deeper devotion to the land of your birth—to your homes and firesides, where spring earth's brightest hopes and nestle its sweetest, most heavenly joys; and induce that love and veneration for your country and its glorious flag, which alone will secure the perpetuation and transmission of the blessings we all enjoy.

"Here are the descendants of the Merckleys and Bastian France, whose names have been alluded to as those around which clusters the interest of this grand occasion. With these people you are acquainted and of them, therefore, I need not speak, except Gilbert G. France, your president of the day, whose father was the captured Henry, which may surprise some of you. But there are here, to-day, besides Gilbert G. France and his nephews, William G. and Albert France, whom you all

know, two other sons of the captured Henry France—David and Jacob—venerable men, upon whose heads are the snows of nearly four-score years, and who have journeyed from their distant homes, that they might be here on this hundredth anniversary of the event, which for the hour, so darkened the heart of their ancestors; to drop a tear to the memory of Catharine Merckley and John France, upon the soil consecrated to liberty by their blood—‘the deep damnation of whose taking off’ can now never be forgotten; to drink again from the fountain of patriotism, and catch thence an inspiration, which with an unfaltering faith and trust in the promises of Christianity, shall cheer and sustain them as they totter down life’s steep decline. Jacob France, of Cold Brook, Herkimer county, and David France, of South Canisteo, Steuben county, evince by their presence, though burdened by the weight of years, their love of home and native land. More than this, Jacob France is both precept and example to the young men and youth here to-day, and wherever else the story of this day’s exercises shall come.

“Coming into possession of the German Bible of his grandfather, Bastian France, late in life, with which language he was wholly unacquainted, he resolved when seventy-two years old that he would learn to read the word of his and his grandfather’s God in the language in which it was written, and in eighteen months had so mastered it that he was able to read the Scriptures in the German, and has since read that Bible, aged a hundred and thirty-five years, twice through in course.

“Young men of Seward, of the adjoining towns and of the County, there is encouragement, cheer and inspiration to duty, in this to you, and to perseverance in whatever you may properly undertake, which insures success. David France, by his devoted labors as a minister of the gospel during fifty-two years of his

life, attests at once his belief and trust in the God of his fathers, and therefore his worth and merit as a citizen and patriot.

“Among the wonderful achievements of invention and science since, in answer to patriot invocations, war’s dread alarms were hushed and peace smiled over the land, I would mention those of Albert France to whom allusion has been made in the manufacture of guns and projectiles, who by his breech-loading cannon with steel-pointed ball, second to none in the world for war’s dread conflict, has made the iron-clads of the world’s navies but as the valueless wooden walls of ancient naval armaments.

“The clustering memories of noble deeds of patriot sires, incited and nerved by the bloody sacrifices we commemorate, the emotions of gratitude they awaken and the grand lessons they inculcate, are all too numerous for the swift flying hours, and I leave them all to say, that realizing the difference between the peace of to-day and the terrors of a hundred years ago, when the slumbers of innocence were broken by the fiendish war-whoops of the painted savage, and making sleepers affrighted by gleaming tomahawks or glittering scalping-knife, faithful to the teachings of the hour and the glistening memories of the past, your descendants shall here assemble in October, 1980, under the same bright stars and stripes, to re-memorize the tragedies of a hundred years ago, and by the act, will, as you do now, with prayer and song, dedicate themselves and their lives to God and their native land.

“Descendants of Bastian France, to you remains, and upon you devolves a holy duty, made sacred by this day’s pageant of banner and music, oratory and song. It is, that you erect to the memory of the murdered John France, a suitable monumental stone. I appeal to you and adjure you by the ‘green graves of your sires,’ let not another October’s sun arise ere the work of love is done.”

CHAPTER XXI.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF WRIGHT.

TOWN FORMED—FIRST SETTLEMENT—BECKER FAMILY—ITS HISTORY—PEDIGREE—BECKER LAND GRANT—FIRST SAW MILL—HONYOST BECKER—HIS INTENDED MARRIAGE—JOHN DOMINICK AND FAMILY—DR. MULTER WHIPS DOMINICK—HESSIAN SETTLERS—EVENTS OF 1782—BURNING OF ZIMMER'S BUILDINGS—BECKER MURDERED—BOYS SECRETED—ADVANCE UPON MAJOR BECKER'S HOUSE—JACOB AND WILLIAM FLEE TO THE MOUNTAIN—JOHN HUTT—GEORGE SCHELL—FIRING UPON THE INDIANS—SNYDER AND MANN CAPTURED—TRADITIONAL TALE OF SETHS HENRY'S DEATH—TREATMENT OF PRISONERS—MAJOR BECKER'S DEATH—STONE STORE AT SHUTTER'S CORNERS—HENRY BECKER—FOUNDING OF SCHOOL—RESOLUTIONS—HUNTING FAMILY—GALLUPVILLE—TANNERY—CHURCHES—REFORMED CHURCH—METHODIST—LUTHERAN—TEMPERANCE—SCHOOL—NEW VILLAGE—WAGON MAKING—DUTCH SETTLEMENT—WEIDMAN'S—HIRAM WALDEN OFFICIALS—SUPERVISORS—VALUATION—MERCHANTS AND PHYSICIANS—BOUNDARIES.

THIS town was formed from Schoharie on the 4th of April, 1846, through the legislative labors of the late Judge John C. Wright, then Senator of the Third District, and named in honor of the acting Governor, Silas Wright.

It is peculiarly adapted to both agriculture and manufacture, although but little of the latter is practiced, yet by the aid of capital, Fox's creek and the numberless small streams that issue from the hillsides might be utilized for such purposes, and be as profitable as like privileges warrant throughout the Eastern States.

Agriculture has arrived at an as advanced state in this town as any other of the County in the production of cereals and grasses to which the land is adapted, especially winter grains.

The first settlement made in the town was near the present village of Gallupville, at an early date, probably about the year 1735.

We are of the opinion based upon circumstances and documents, that the Becker family were the pioneer settlers, and in view of the fact that they form a goodly representation in the population of the township at the present time, beside being connected with events of historic interest during the Revolutionary war, we will refer to their early history and be more particular in regard to the individual members of the family as occasion will require a knowledge of their connection.

During the voyage from Germany the father and husband died, leaving the mother and two sons, Johannes and Jacob, as the only representatives of the German or High Dutch Beckers in America. They settled upon the Hudson river, below the Camps, and must have remained there several years, as the mother married, and the sons there grew to manhood and married before they came to the promised land of Schoharie. The tradition of the family as given us by Gideon Becker, a great-grandson of Johannes, who has spared neither pains nor expense in tracing the history and lineage of his ancestors, is to the effect that the two brothers started alone with guns and knapsacks from their homes upon the Hudson, and followed that stream up to the Mohawk, and from thence to the Schoharie creek and located here, it being the suburbs of the Schoharie settlement.

The mother and step father followed, and a rude but comfortable house was built near the present site of Austin Becker's farm house, now occupied by Spateholts. There they quietly labored and laid the foundation of the wealth and influence the family possessed and enjoyed for many long years, even down to the present time, yet not forgetful of the customs of the "Fater land," which proved disastrous to the existence of the step-father. His name was Bashsha, and he had served many years as a soldier in his native land. Observing the old German customs of making New Year's day merry by songs, dances, drinking and athletic sports, his near neighbors, the Indians, were invit-

ed to partake of his hospitality, and perhaps contributed to the sports. At the close of the day, target shooting was indulged in, and an old squaw, wishing to exhibit her science in gunning, begged the privilege of trying her skill, but being under the influence of "firewater," she carelessly shot Bashsha, instead of the target. He died soon after, regretting that, after passing through several wars, he at last fell by the hand of a drunken squaw.

Jacob, not liking the country, again shouldered his gun and knapsack, and traveled down the Susquehanna, and joined the German colony at Tunkhannock, in Pennsylvania, where his descendants still reside.

It will be seen that Johannes, or John, and the widowed mother, were the only ones left of the family. The former became a large landholder, and the progenitor of the present High Dutch Becker family of Schoharie County, whose numbers are almost legion. His children were Johannes, Jr., Jacob, HonYost, (Joseph,) George, William, and Maria, (Mrs. John Werth, of Schoharie.)

Johannes, Jr., was father of young Peter Becker, of Carlisle, and Jacob was grandfather of Austin and Gideon Becker, of Gallupville. Joseph (Major) had two sons, Henry and John. The former was father to Mrs. Rix Warner, of Cobleskill, and Mrs. Coats, and the latter the father of Martinus, and HonYost, or Joseph, of Carlisle, David, Peter and Mrs. William Posson. George's sons were Peter Becker, (Old Peter) of Carlisle, William, of Gallupville, and Jacob, of Peoria. William died childless. He occupied the homestead.

The children settled upon lands the father purchased in 1743, and became prosperous farmers and true patriots. Near the time the Beckers came, Johannes Schaeffer and his son Johannes settled where William Schermerhorn now resides, and in company with Johannes Becker, purchased several thousand acres of land of Johannes Lawyer and John Depeyster, in 1743, upon which they located their children. Becker and Schaeffer made a division of the same, on the 1st of December, 1763. These two men became interested in several large tracts of land in different sections, especially the one lying in

Carlisle and Cobleskill, east of Borst's, or "Dorlach patent," and designated as Becker's Patent, also of one thousand, two hundred and forty-six acres, lying partly upon and to the west of Barton Hill, purchased February 5, 1772. •

About the year 1740, there settled upon the farm now occupied by Christian Hiltz, one Jacob Zimmer, who became connected with Johannes Lawyer, the second, in the purchase of large tracts of land, and was, at one time, a landed autocrat, being the possessor of at least ten thousand acres.

He became addicted to intemperate habits, and careless in business transactions, of which his partners took advantage, and obtained an assignment of all excepting a tract lying upon and around the present Zimmer hill. His shrewdness, only, saved it, which he divided among his heirs, with whom he lived during the latter part of his life. His sons were Adam, Peter, George and William, whose great-grandchildren occupy the land which he purchased at six-pence per acre, nearly one century and one-half ago.

Having now referred to the three families that first settled within the limits of the town, we will cast a glance toward the advancement made by them as pioneers in the year 1770. We find the three had united and built a saw-mill upon Alexander Zimmer's present farm and tradition tells us the water-wheel was eight feet in diameter and the crank of the pitman was made of wood and it required two men to manufacture them to keep the mill running as there being a great deal of strain upon it, and the wood being green, they would soon twist off. If the stick from which it was hewn was tough, it might possibly last one day, but usually one half of that time.

HonYost Becker caught the spirit of improvement, undoubtedly, energetic,—and built another near his house about the year 1765 and he obtained an iron crank from Holland, which was the first one used upon the stream. Soon after he built a grist-mill in which he placed a "sopus" stone, that proved to be the death of his matrimonial calculations. He was to marry one of the buxom girls of Schoharie as soon as he returned from purchasing a mill-stone and transacting other business down the Hudson

river. Having been delayed a few days beyond the time, upon his arrival at home, he found his intended bride had become the wife of another. Without doubt Becker found his sopus millstone far more profitable and staple than the fickle minded bride. He built a large stone house in after years, which still stands and is now owned and occupied by Anthony DeLong, and which was occupied by the patriots of the neighborhood as a fortress during their struggle for liberty. Upon the door-lock is enstamped 1775, which without doubt is the date of the erection of the building. Becker was commissioned Major of the Fifteenth Regiment and was in command of the Lower or Stone Fort upon the invasion of Johnson and Brant in 1780.

Sometime before the Revolution commenced, John Dominick came from New York City and settled in the eastern part of the town upon the farm now occupied by Isaac I. Barber, and caused no little commotion among his neighbors and the community after a few years by his peculiar religious tenets. He was, without doubt, the first Methodist in these parts, and owing to his deep interest in the Christian cause, and the excitable nature of the spirit that moved him, his neighbors and acquaintances concluded he was bewitched, and treated him accordingly—though not with that severity to which the Puritans subjected the unfortunate of their day. Dominick was taken to Dr. Multer, of Schoharie, whose skill was in the extermination of witches, in short, a witch doctor. The Methodistical Dominick insisted that he was not sick, nor possessed of witches or devils, and would not take the medicine the doctor prescribed. Multer was a large man, and when a patient refused to take his medicine, through the want of faith, or a knowledge of the inconsistency of the case, he threw the patient and poured his drugs down, contending that the witches were to be overcome by force. Dominick was thus served, and upon his closing his teeth and throwing the medicine from his mouth, the wise doctor concluded that the witches refused his mode of treatment, and a sound whipping was the only alternative. Poor Dominick, though a stout man, was but a child in the hands of Multer, and was forced to receive a sound thrashing with hickory gads, that the

evil spirits might be frightened away long enough for the doctor to get some of the medicine down the patient. Dominick, upon being released, concluded to leave the evil spirit found with the doctor, and when the latter's watchful eye was turned, he took to his heels and wandered down to Breakabeen, where he concealed himself for a while, and sent word to his sons to take him home. Regardless of distasteful medicine, whippings, and the jeers of the uncharitable, Dominick was still a Methodist, and continued so to be until his death. He was the leader of the first Methodist service in the County, and for many years attended the old Knox church, from which a pastor was sent to preach in the school-house, in the present district, Number One, long before the present Methodist organization was formed.

His children were:—

John,
Francis,
George,
Peter,
Maria, (Mrs. Peter Schell,)

the children of whom love to relate the bewitching life of the Christian grandfather, whose shouts of Hallelujah and Glory awoke distrust of lunacy among the simple settlers, and brought persecution upon him, to which his happy spirit responded a fervent Amen!

Upon the surrender of Burgoyne quite a colony of Hessians came to this town and located south of the creek upon the hills and became thrifty and industrious farmers, whose descendants are still in possession of the lands. Among them were the Nasholts, Derringers, Bellers, Hiltzley, Spatcholts, (originally Betholts,) Shofelt and Keinholts. The latter, after settled in Guilderland.

Having referred to the earliest settlers, we will now consider the events of the Revolutionary war as they occurred within the limits of the town, not forgetful of the fact that the settlers were in independent circumstances through their industrious and economical habits.

Nothing of a warlike nature occurred here until the morning of July 26, 1782, the particulars of which we draw from "Schoharie County

and Border wars," whose author was conversant with the patriots who were in the strife upon that day. We are also indebted to Gideon Becker a grandson of one of the actors, for location of events and the free use of ancient documents to substantiate dates and traditions.

On that eventful morning a band of Indians and Tories under the command of Adam Crysler, numbering twenty-five sallied out from Johannes Schaeffer's residence, where they had lodged a few days, to that of Jacob Zimmer, nearly two miles distant and somewhat obscured from the main settlement, without being detected by the neighbors.

Zimmer and his son Peter were not at home, but the savage band found others to practice their cruelty upon in the person of Jacob Jr., and a Hessian that worked for the family. The former was tomahawked and scalped in the presence of his wife and mother, and the latter was killed a few rods from the buildings in a brutish manner by crushing the skull with a stone. Perhaps he was the first one attacked and that method was adopted not to apprise the family of their approach.

After setting fire to the house and barn they turned their course back to the Becker neighborhood. The barn was entirely consumed, but the house being built of stone, the two Mrs. Zimmers succeeded in extinguishing the fire. Peter, another son, went to the Beckers upon an errand that morning and upon his return was met by the party who took him prisoner. Upon his asking the leader if they saw his brother Jacob, they replied they had left him home with the women, but ere they had marched to the Becker house, he recognized his brother's bleeding scalp dangling from an Indian's musket.

Upon nearing the Becker mansion which stood where the old house now stands, the party heard some one chopping, to the northeast of the house and they slyly approached, and found John, the next oldest of the Becker sons, busily engaged in clearing a spot for a wheat stack. It being understood by the settlers that the enemy was bent on destroying their harvest, which assisted in the army supply, and to avoid it being burned they usually built stacks in thickets outside of the regular paths, and John was that

morning engaged in preparing a spot for such purposes.

They came upon him unawares and struck him with a tomahawk upon the back of the head driving the weapon to the brain, which from appearances, instantly killed him. His scalp was taken and they passed on towards the house, near which were Jacob and William hoeing corn. The latter saw the party approaching in the thicket and cried "Indians!" upon which both dropped their hoes and ran towards the house. The Indians could have shot them both but not wishing to alarm the neighborhood, especially Major Becker of the present Delong residence, they tried to catch them by cutting off their retreat, but they both ran directly for the bank of the creek, east of the house and instead of running down the stream as one would naturally expect, to gain the stone house of Major Becker, they ran up along the steep bank and hid. The Indians were close upon them, but they eluded their search, owing, perhaps to the thick underbrush that grew along the bank, beneath the roots of which the water ran, and under which they hid. At one time Jacob could touch his pursuer's leg, but did not feel disposed to gain his attention by so doing. His heart throbs seemed to be loud enough to be heard at quite a distance, but the savage passed on over to an island that has long since disappeared, and searched for them. Not finding them he bent his course towards Major Becker's as did the whole force, without molesting the women who had hid near the cabbage patch they were hoeing when the party made their appearance, or setting fire to the buildings. No doubt but the invasion was made for the purpose of either taking Major Becker prisoner or obtaining his scalp, and the greatest caution was used in not apprising him of their presence.

The party were guided by a Tory neighbor, whose intimacy with the Beckers and Zimmers had been very close, both in a social and business point of view and without any aggravating interruption. It was but another example of the treachery the human heart is capable of practicing, when imaginary gain is to be enjoyed, and we find that at no period in the history of our country, was the art practiced so much as in the Revolutionary war.

Joseph and William remained concealed until the savages passed on, when they went upon the hill to the south of the house, and in an open spot pulled their clothes off to dry them in the sun, as they had lain partly in the water when concealed.

They heard the firing at Major Becker's, and moved on to the west to gain a ledge of rocks, north of Shutter's corners, from which they could look down upon the valley and witness the result of the attack. Before gaining the rocks, they heard the party approaching, and William, thinking it to be the neighboring women seeking safety by flight, came very near calling to them, and would have done so, had not the more discreet Jacob cautioned him. Soon the whole force passed up the brook near them, wending their way in the direction of the Cobleskill, not wishing to pass down Fox's creek to the Schoharie, and then down, as they might be met with a force from the Lower Fort. The young men again started, after the party passed, and from the rocks, saw the house still standing, and a few men close by. They drew near cautiously, for fear there might be a few still lurking near, but upon close inspection, the brawny form of Schell and Hutt, were recognized, when they boldly joined them. The old house is still standing, as before stated, although its general appearance has been changed according to the fancy or convenience of later occupants. J. R. Simms says of its former design:—

"It had, at that period, a gambrel roof. A hall passed through it from north to south, with a door at each end. The house contained five front and five rear windows, and at that time, two chamber windows in the east gable end, since altered.

"The upper part of the house was unfurnished, and all in one room, and the windows were barricaded nearly to the top, with oak plank, the front door was closed up with plank, and the back door, then the only entrance to the house, strengthened by a false door, also of oak, to arrest the bullets of the enemy.

"Just before Crysler," continued the historian, "and his murderers arrived at Major Becker's, Henry, his son, then nine years of age, Jacob Zimmer, Jr.,—nephew of the one mur-

dered—and several other boys about the same age, had been a little distance southeast of the house to drive hogs to a pasture.

"On their return, and when within ten or fifteen rods of the house, one of the boys said to the rest: 'See the riflemen over there; they are painted like the Indians!' The Schoharie rangers, when on a scout, were clad much like Indians, but young Becker instantly recognized the party to be a band of savages. A few rods above the house was a small island containing perhaps an acre of ground, separated from the bank southeast of the dwelling, by a deep pool of stagnant water, over which had been felled a tree. The enemy being upon the island, had either to make a circuit, or cross the log, which could only be done in single file. This gave the boys a little start, and they ran to the house shouting 'Indians! Indians!'

"They could easily have been shot, as they were but a few rods distant from the enemy, but the latter still hoped to surprise a militia Major, which would doubtless have been done, had not the boys thus opportunely discovered their approach.

"Major Becker, who chanced to be engaged back of the house, caught the alarm, and running in seized his gun, entered the southwest room, thrust it through a loop-hole above one of the windows, and fired upon the invaders, breaking an Indian's arm.

"As the boys ran into the hall door, they encountered several children within, and all tumbled in a heap.

"Major Becker's wife, who was a woman of the times, sprang to the plank door, which fastened with a ring and bolt, drew it to, and held it ajar with the bolt in her hand.

"John Hutt, as the enemy approached, was at the western end of the house making a whiffletree. Mrs. Becker continued to hold the door open for Hutt, who took alarm from the furious barking of three dogs belonging to the inmates of the house, which had met and were giving battle to the invaders, who halted to shoot them. As Hutt neared the door, a large Indian sprang to seize him; but the former raised the missile which he had retained in his hand, in a threatening manner, the

latter recoiled, and he sprang into the door, which was quickly bolted by Mrs. Becker. Had not Mrs. Becker possessed great presence of mind, and the dogs met the enemy, Hutt must have either been slain or captured by them.

"The shot of the Major may also have damped the ardor of the assailants. George Schell, another Schoharie soldier, was fortunately in the house at the time, and assisted in its defense.

"The inmates of the house consisting of the three men named, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Adam Zimmer, possibly one or two other women, and some eight or ten children, went upstairs. The Major took his station at the southwest corner window, which commanded the enemy's approach to his barn, assigned to Hutt the eastern gable windows, and to Schell, the northwest window opposite his own, which commanded their approach to the mill, which stood a few rods from the house upon the ground now occupied by the raceway of the present mill. The lower sash of the upper windows was also secured by plank.

"The enemy immediately ran around the eastern end of the house, and there gained temporary shelter, some under the creek bank, some behind a fence, and others behind a small log building standing a little distance southeast of the house, used as a sort of store-room. The enemy fired numerous balls at the windows, twenty-eight entering the window at which Hutt was stationed. He was a bold, vigilant fellow, and often incurred the censure of Major Becker for exposing his person so much about the window, telling him that the force of the enemy was unknown, but their own was *three men*, the loss of one being one-third of their strength. Hutt however, could not be restrained by the prudent counsels of the Major, and kept constantly returning the shot of the enemy.

"Discovering through a crevice of the log building the hat of one of his foes, Hutt sent a bullet through the brim of it close to the crown. This hat, it was afterwards ascertained, was on the head of Captain Crysler.

"The balls of the enemy cut the air several times around the head of Hutt like the fall of hail in a hurricane, but fortunately without injury.

"After continuing the attack for some time, the enemy attempted to fire the building. They placed a wheel-barrow under the water conductor leading from the gutter at the northeast corner of the house to within three or four feet of the ground; and piling on combustibles set them on fire which quickly communicated with the wooden spout, and threatened the destruction of the building.

"It was impossible for the inmates of the house to fire on their foes while applying the incendiary torch without exposing themselves to almost instant death, as some of the Indians were constantly on the lookout for such an exposure.

"As the flames began to ascend the gutter towards the roof, Major Becker, who had no inclination to be burned alive, set about forcing off the corner of it with a piece of scantling, which fortune placed in the chamber, while his wife went into the cellar to procure water. On entering the cellar she found an outside cellar door upon the north side of the building standing wide open, where the enemy might have entered had they gone to the other end of the building, which they could have done without danger.

"Fastening the door, and procuring a pail of water, she returned to the chamber. For a time the roof, which was nailed on with heavy wrought nails as was the ancient custom, baffled all the Major's efforts, but at length yielded and he sank down almost exhausted.

"As the shingles fell to the ground the Indians gathered them up, exclaiming "Yok-wah" *Thank you!* and added in the dialect, "*we can kindle it now.*" A hole being made, water was thrown down and the fire extinguished. The enemy soon had it blazing again with additional combustibles but it was again put out and again rekindled and put out, until the spout had burned 'off' above their reach, when they abandoned further attempts to set the house on fire. Supposing their firing would be heard at the Lower Fort, some three miles distant, the assailants took French leave of the premises about nine o'clock. A. M., and buried themselves in the forest, having been about the Becker house several hours."

Others living in the neighborhood fled to the Lower Fort upon the beginning of the attack of the stone house, and according to Simms, Captain Brown, then in command, detailed Lieutenant Snyder with a party to give the Beckers relief, but they arrived after the enemy had left. Simms farther says:—

“After the enemy retired from Beckers, the supposed Indian whom Schell had shot, was found to have fallen partly in the water and was not dead. He was taken into the house and Doctor Werth called to examine his wound, who pronounced it mortal, the ball having passed diagonally through the body at the shoulders. The man was now discovered to be a painted Tory instead of an Indian; and was shortly after recognized to be Erkert, a Scotch cooper, who had made fleur barrels for Major Becker before the war. The Major, on making the recognition, accused the Tory of ingratitude. Said he, ‘when you came to me for work, I employed you, and always paid you well; and now you come with a band of savages to murder me and my family, plunder and burn my buildings.’

“The man appeared penitent as certain death was before him, expressing his sorrow for the course he had taken, and said he did not care which succeeded, King or Congress.

“He was scalped by a friendly Indian named Yan (a son of David who was killed by the Cavalry under Colonel Harper in 1777,) and on the following morning he was summoned to the bar of his Maker, to render an account for the deeds done in the body.”

John Snyder, known as Schoharie John, and Peter Mann, of Fox's Creek were captured in the morning by Crysler and party, as the former were returning from Beaver Dam. Mann was liberated at Kneiskern's dorf. The party passed on to the Warner neighborhood in Cobleskill, where they took George Warner, Jr., prisoner as stated in Chapter XVIII.

Zimmer and Snyder were taken to Niagara, the former returned on parole while the latter enlisted in the British service to afford an opportunity to desert and return home as stated by Author Simms.

We will here state, although it is contrary to

published history that this Schoharie John Snyder claimed the honor of killing the notorious Seths Henry, after the war closed. While it is firmly believed to be a fact by the family, we cannot vouch for its truthfulness, yet will here insert the tradition, as after the war closed many boasts were made of doing this and that, which had but little truth attached. It is said that during the march from Fox's Creek to Canada, after the attack upon the Becker house and capture of Snyder, Seths Henry incurred the displeasure of Snyder by loading him with plunder and abuse. After the war closed, Snyder and several other men that became too lazy to labor, were lounging around Zimmer's inn, when an Indian and squaw were seen to approach from the Beaver Dam road. Snyder recognized in him the dreaded Seths Henry, yet upon questioning him, he pretended to be another man, but after a few drinks, offered in a friendly manner, the squaw became indignant towards her lord and master for trying to disown his name, and after a short time he acknowledged himself to be the hated savage. Snyder and his fellows freely treated him until he became sleepy drunk, and while nodding in his chair in front of the house, Snyder obtained a rope and making a noose at one end, slipped it over the Indian's head and around his neck, and he with his helpers ran towards the creek dragging the unfortunate warrior roughly over the ground. After beating him with clubs they threw him in Fox's creek, and the water being high, he was carried along by the current the length of the rope, which was fastened to a log that spanned the stream. He was thus held until death relieved him of the pains of vengeance, when the rope was unloosened from the neck and the body allowed to float down the stream. Some distance below, a tree had fallen across the creek against which brush and logs had floated and formed a miniature dam, or rather seine, through which only the water freely passed.

The body floated to it and sank, where it was found after the water subsided. Murphy through his biography, as has been seen, claimed the pleasure of relieving the villain of a hated existence by his unerring rifle, but we doubt very much as to the wily savage being disposed of in this manner.

To show the treatment of the captives of that eventful day of which we have narrated, together with George Warner, Jr., while on the march to Niagara, we will still farther copy from Simms' history as related to him by Warner himself:—

"The second day after leaving Cobleskill the whole party was obliged to subsist on horse-flesh without bread or seasoning of any kind. Warner, who communicated the facts to the author, said he ate on the way to Niagara of a deer, a wolf, a rattlesnake and a hen-hawk, but without bread or salt. The two captives, Warner and Zimmer, were lightly bound and generally fared alike while on their journey.

"They had for some days contemplated making an escape and complaining that they could not travel on account of their cords, and they were a little loosened, which favored their plan. They concluded they ought, in justice, to communicate their intention to their fellow-prisoner, although he was not bound, and give him a chance to escape with them if he chose to embrace it. But a short time after their intention was communicated to a third person, the conspirators for liberty were more firmly bound than ever, and were afterwards continually watched until they arrived at Niagara. Nights they were pinioned so tight that they could not get their hands together, and were secured by a rope tied to a tree or pole, upon which rope an Indian always laid down.

"The prisoners also passed on their way another party of Indians, who were killing a prisoner in a singular manner. His captors had tied his wrists together and drawn them over his knees, after which a stick was passed under the knees and over the wrists and a rope tied to it between them and thrown over the limb of a tree. His tormentors then drew him up a distance and let him fall by slacking the rope, continuing their hellish sport until the concussion extinguished the vital spark."

Major Becker lived within the stone house until his death, which occurred in 1806 at the age of sixty-eight, leaving two sons, Henry and John, who engaged in the mercantile and distilling business. In 1799 they purchased the ground upon which the old stone walls now

stand at Shutter's Corners, and the year following built the store. Upon it we find engraved several names, among which is that of Ryer Schermerhorn, the mason that built the walls. It is to be regretted that the fire a few years ago nearly destroyed the ancient walls.

Henry became one of the Assistant Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County, and was an upright business man. He rebuilt the grist mill which still stands, about the year 1810. While there are many of the Becker family living in the town, there are none of the old class left, they have passed away, yet they left a worthy record of fidelity to country that is proudly referred to by their grandchildren. The widow of one of Jacob's sons, Mrs. John Peter Becker, still survives, at the age of eighty-five, with children around her with locks whitened by the weight of years, and is still in the vigor of her mental faculties, though somewhat crippled physically. She was a daughter of Hon-Yost Warner, of Warner Hill, and connected by marriage with many of the old stock patriotic families of the Schoharie settlements.

About the year 1800 Jacob Becker, Jr., built a fulling mill upon the north side of the creek, opposite the Delong residence, which was afterward purchased by Silas Brewster, and still later by his son, Silas, Jr., who in turn sold to his brother Allen, who removed it up the valley and which is now owned and occupied by him. This little hamlet was for many years the business center of this part of the town of Schoharie and drew a large trade from the Schoharie valley and the hills surrounding. The Becker Brothers' store was no common affair for those days, added to which was the distillery and ashery, beside the fulling and flouring mills, making a lively center.

The next settlement east, as we have already mentioned, was in the present Barber neighborhood, but no efforts were made to make a business center. The settlers returned after the war, and were farmers, but of no mean class, as we find they were aware of the importance of education, and encouraged the facilities to instruct their children. As the founders of Yale College assembled in 1700, and upon laying a few books down, said: "I give these books for founding

a college in Connecticut," so the early settlers of that neighborhood assembled and drew up the following preamble and resolutions, on November 2, 1812:—

"To promote literature and place the means of knowledge, information, and the benefits arising from well regulated society within the reach of all, we, whose names are hereunto annexed, do hereby form ourselves into a school society, in order that we may adopt some rule to govern ourselves by, for the continuance of a school, and to secure the benefits flowing from such an institution, we do hereby declare the following articles permanently binding on all the company:—

Article 1st. There shall forever hereafter, be two Trustees annually chosen on the first of October, in each year, for the purpose of engaging preceptors, and see that they have their pay, and likewise to call school meetings whenever they deem it necessary.

Article 2d. There shall be two Censors annually chosen, for the purpose of enquiring into the abilities of any Teacher that may present himself as such, and report their opinion respecting his qualifications, to the Society at their meeting. It shall likewise be the duty of the Censors to visit the school at least once in a month, and enquire into the progress made by the Scholars in learning.

Article 3d. Nine members shall constitute a quorum to enact any by-laws for the better regulation of the society, not repugnant to this constitution.

Article 4th. Whenever a school meeting is called and amended, they shall proceed regularly to choose one chairman, and one secretary—the chairman to have no vote on any question, unless the house is equally divided. The business of the secretary shall be to keep a record of the proceedings in that meeting, to enter them in a book kept for the purpose, and to transmit them together with the book to his successor in office; likewise to read, if required, all, or any part of the antecedent proceedings of the Society.

Article 5th. Whenever two or more members shall feel themselves aggrieved, either by the teacher or the officers of the society, they shall

apply to the Trustees, who shall call a school meeting, in order to adjust the difficulty. And if this constitution shall appear on trial to operate harder on some than others, two-thirds of the signers shall have power to amend it, or add a new clause, and three-fourths of the members shall have power to abolish it.

Signed by

Joseph Dennis,
John Wess, (by mark.)
Jehiel Babcock,
Henry Slood,
William W. Zimmer,
Isaac Barber,
Robert Hurst, Jr.,
Isaac Lounsbury,
Joseph Hunting,
David Seabury,
Enoch Potter,
John Dominick, Jr.,
O. Scranton,
Henry Little."

A lease of the school-house lot, bearing date the 1st day of November, 1812, is with the records, and stating the consideration to be five pepper-corns yearly, for the rent of the lot. At a meeting held in the school-house on the second day of November, the same year, pursuant to notice previously given, Isaac Lounsbury was chairman, and Isaac Barber, secretary. John Dominick, Jr., and Joseph Hunting, were chosen trustees, and William W. Zimmer, and Isaac Barber, censors. The secretary was ordered, by a resolution, to purchase a book for records, and receive his pay.

On April 1, 1837, a meeting was held and a resolution was passed to build a new school-house, twenty by twenty-five feet, "the wall to be two feet and one-half underground, and one foot above ground on the lowest corner of the wall, to be quarry-stone of Schoolcraft's quarry;" also

"Resolved it to be built in a workmanlike manner, and there be two hundred dollars raised for purpose of building a school-house."

It is needless to remark here, that the character of that neighborhood is easily understood, and that those men were, among the settlers of

that day, exceptions to the common class. While other schools were formed, yet none with the care and weight of interest as shown in the foregoing articles. It was more like the founding of a college than a simple common school.

In the foregoing list of signers to the school proceedings, we find Joseph Hunting, who was the progenitor of the present Hunting family of the town. He settled here upon the farm now occupied by his grandson, Ambrose Hunting, about the year 1785, and reared four sons, John, Ira, Joseph, and Asa, who have been identified with the interests of the town for many years. Upon the list of supervisors we find John Hunting in 1853, 1854, 1855, and Ambrose R., in 1864, 1866, 1881, 1882, beside, in the official list of the County the important position of school commissioner was conferred upon the latter two terms, whose successful administration was undoubtedly an outgrowth of the "school society" in which the grandfather took such a deep interest.

GALLUPVILLE.

This village was named after the Gallup family, that purchased the land upon which it stands, about the year 1817. The Gallup family were among the first settlers of Massachusetts, in fact, of the "Pilgrim band," and according to "Trumbull's History," were prominent members of the Old Colony, (especially during King Philip's war,) in a military point of view. As the cry of "Westward ho!" began, after the Revolutionary struggle, two families settled in this part of the country—Nathan at Beaver Dam, Albany county, (the father of William H. Gallup, formerly editor of the *Schoharie Republican*, and Almerin, ex-County clerk,) and Ezra Gallup, Sr., at a later date, upon the farm now owned by Benjamin Gallup. Ezra, Jr., a son, purchased the village land and built a grist-mill about the year 1819, where the present one stands. He was a merchant and an energetic man, and at once invited tradesmen to settle upon his land, and gave them rare chances to become successful. He would not allow two of the same occupation to settle here, unless it became strictly necessary. Not, at least, to cause opposition, or a conflict in prices.

In 1825 the postoffice was established and he received the appointment as Deputy, and was that year elected Justice of the Peace, which office he held to the year 1849. Owing to his extended business, John Wheeler became a partner in the mill, and it has been a valuable property since its erection.

It has four run of stone which are driven by a powerful wheel of seventy-five horse power, and under the management of Alfred Zeh, the present owner, is not excelled by a like enterprise in the County.

The first and only inn in the village was kept by Paul Suttle. The present one was built in 1872 by Weidman Dominick, and rented yearly up to the present season, when it was purchased by Peter Cullings.

Tannery.—The energy of Squire Gallup soon brought Samuel Curren, a tanner and currier, who established the present tannery about the year 1825. He was succeeded by several in turn among whom were Whipple & Morgan, G. Conklin, Gordon & Lawrence, and in 1850 by Mathew Lampson. While the property belonged to Conklin in 1840, the old building was burned and the present one or a part of it was built by him the season following. Mr. Lampson carried on the business with the greatest success of any of the proprietors that preceded him. He was a very careful, substantial business man and amassed a fortune with which he did a vast amount of good, and endeared himself to all with whom he transacted business, by his honest and unselfish demeanor. The enterprise has added much to the business of the village, and consequently to its growth, especially the latter, under the management of Charles Gordon, who built nearly all of the houses upon Mill street, beside several others, and caused the street to be laid out in place of the old one, that ran near the creek.

Churches and Schools.—Business being established upon a firm basis and a village assured, efforts were made for the erection of a house of worship. There being several denominations represented in the place, it was first proposed to erect a Union church, but the proposition did not meet with favor.

The Reformed Church was organized on the 5th of August, 1844, with the following officers:—

Elders:—John W. Zimmer, Robert Forsyth, Abraham Martin and John G. Zimmer.

Deacons:—Robert Coats, Jacob I. Devoe, Adam Z. Settle and Henry Mattice.

The edifice was constructed of brick the year following, with a stone basement, which part was intended for an Academy.

The records of this organization are not complete, a portion being lost which debars us from giving a more extended account of the Society.

The pastors of this Society were:—

Paul Weidman,
E. S. Hammond,
N. Bogardus,
—— Lane,
J. M. Compton,
E. Vedder,
J. H. Kershaw,
William H. Carr.

At the present time it has no settled pastor.

The Methodist Society held meetings in school houses for many years previous to the building of the church edifice at the village, but at what time the organization was effected we are unable to learn. It is an early outgrowth of the Knox church, and a monument of the religious zeal of John Dominick, the bewitched victim. It was removed to the village in June, 1844, under the pastorate of E. Osborn. All of the Methodist churches were supplied by circuit preachers at that time, the circuit embracing nearly the whole of the County—or at least as much territory—running many times into other counties, which made it laborious for the pastors, and the meetings irregular. The pastors that have officiated here are as follows:—

E. Osborn,
Ezra Strong,
Hiram Chase,
Manley Witherel,
C. E. Giddings,
J. W. Belknap,
A. McGilton,
G. C. Simmons,

W. Little,
W. R. Brown,
A. W. Garvin,
S. S. Ford,
W. H. L. Starks,
M. D. Mead,
D. T. Elliott,
H. Blanchard,
William H. L. Starks,
R. T. Wade,
H. Wright,
E. E. Taylor,
D. Brough,
S. W. Clemons,
J. Goodins,
T. D. Walker.

Evangelical Lutheran Church.—The records of this society are in better condition than those of others in the town, and we find the organization was effected by Rev. G. A. Lintner, May 6, 1854, although a preliminary organization was made nearly two years previous, and their house of worship erected in 1853. At a meeting of the Brothers, held on the 6th of May, 1854, when John Shafer was chairman, and Ezra Brownell, secretary, it was

Resolved, That the society shall be known as the "Evangelical Church of Gallupville."

The following were elected officers:—

Trustees:—Peter Schoolcraft, Ira Zeh, and Ezra Brownell.

Elders:—John Shafer, John Miller, P. J. Livingston.

Deacons:—P. J. Zeh, J. F. Schoolcraft, John J. Shafer.

Treasurer:—Peter J. Zeh.

Clerk:—Egbert M. Gaige.

It was also

Resolved, That we call Rev. L. Swackhamer, of Berne, as pastor.

The first Communion was celebrated on the 12th of August, 1854, with Rev. L. Swackhamer, officiating.

The following pastors have officiated:—

Rev. L. Swackhamer, 1854.
Rev. A. P. Ludding, 1855–1867.
Rev. Henry Keller, 1868–1872.

Rev. William P. Davis, 1872-1877.

Rev. J. R. Sikes, 1877, and present.

On the 29th of September, 1867, the connection with the Berne society was annulled, and since, it has been self-sustaining.

Temperance Society.—We find upon the Methodist book of records, the preamble and resolutions of a temperance society organized at this place February 27, 1830, which is the only old society that has left its records, that have been accessible to us, and we find the strictures to which the members were bound, did not argue total abstinence, as now, as will be seen in the following resolution, which is a fair specimen of the by-laws:—

Resolved, That those members of this society who use wine, cider, or beer to excess, shall be dealt with in the same manner as if they were ardent spirits.

A long litigation existed between this society and the Reformed Church in regard to the use of the church basement, which aroused a bitter spirit among the members of each, that years have not yet erased.

School.—As we have already mentioned, the basement of the Reformed church was used as an academy for several years, yet it was an academy only in name, and not by incorporation. It was more of a select school, than now—for a few years the enterprise was dormant but through the energy of Dr. Houghtaling, Weidman Dominick and others it was again revived and has been under the tutorage of C. E. Markman, of the town of Fulton for the past two years, and is one of the first schools of the County.

Upon the building of the Albany and Schoharie plank road, it not passing through the old village, a new one was started upon its line, which has become connected with the old by the building of residences, making a fine addition and improvement in the place. The Wright House was erected by Austin Becker for the accommodation of the traveling community and during the gala days of the road did a lucrative business.

Peter Feek the veteran wagon and carriage maker carried on a large business here for many

years in the manufacture of those articles, and was succeeded by John J. Dominick, who, in turn was followed by the present occupant John Spateholts. This shop has the reputation of making the best of work and has, since it was established, manufactured a very large number of carriages and sleighs yearly that find ready sale.

The south line of this town runs through a neighborhood that has been for a long term of years known as the "Dutch settlement," not particularly because the settlers were Dutch more than Germans but as they were both, the people for the last fifty years have been—not rightly—styled "Dutch." While "Dutch" are Hollanders, the Germans are "*High Dutch*," and the latter were referred to in that way by the old settlers merely through the language they used. Chief among the ancient families of this place were the Hallenbecks who removed from the "Camps" at a later date than the first settlers of Schoharie. There were three sets of Hallenbecks—one upon the Mohawk, one at Weiser's dorf and the third here which extended partly into Albany county. Undoubtedly the three progenitors were related—perhaps brothers.

We will here remark that several of the old families of Middleburgh, Schoharie and Wright were connected by marriage with the Weidmans a very old and substantial family, from a place called Berneswitzer in Germany and who settled in Berne, Albany county and gave the name of their paternal home to their settlement. Many of the families of this town, removed from Beaver Dam, once a very prominent settlement of that town.

Hiram Walden.—We cannot pass without referring to Hiram Walden, one of the most prominent men of the town for many years, although a quiet and unpretending man.

In 1836 he represented the County in the Assembly with Alvin Wilkins, of Gilboa; and the Twenty-first Congressional District, which comprised Otsego and Schoharie, in Congress in 1849 and 1851, also the town upon the board of Supervisors four terms, being the first elected in the town of Wright. But few men were better qualified than Mr. Walden for official

business or gained the confidence of his constituents to a greater degree. He was many years connected with the State militia and received the appointment of Major-General of the Sixteenth Division in May 1839, and proved a very efficient officer. "Right" was his watchword in all transactions and whatever was entrusted to him was acted upon faithfully without leaving a reproach. After a useful life he died in June, 1880, at the age of eighty-one.

SUPERVISORS.

- 1846—Hiram Walden.
- 1847—Hiram Walden.
- 1848—Hiram Walden.
- 1849—Henry D. Rosekrans.
- 1850—Henry D. Rosekrans.
- 1851—Simeon Morgan.
- 1852—Simeon Morgan.
- 1853—John Hunting.
- 1854—John Hunting.
- 1855—John Hunting.
- 1856—Peter Dominick.
- 1857—Weidman Dominick.
- 1858—Weidman Dominick.
- 1859—Weidman Dominick.
- 1860—Weidman Dominick.
- 1861—James Plank.
- 1862—Austin Becker.
- 1863—Austin Becker.
- 1864—Ambrose R. Hunting.
- 1865—John J. Dominick.
- 1866—A. R. Hunting.
- 1867—Peter Weidman.
- 1868—Hiram Walden.
- 1869—Henry D. Rosekrans.
- 1870—Henry D. Rosekrans.
- 1871—Ira Zeh, resigned and John J. Dominick appointed to fill vacancy.
- 1872—John J. Dominick.
- 1873—John J. Dominick.
- 1874—John J. Dominick.
- 1875—Peter Weidman.
- 1876—Peter Weidman.
- 1877—Chester Posson.
- 1878—Samuel Davidson.
- 1879—Samuel Davidson.
- 1880—John J. Dominick.
- 1881—Ambrose R. Hunting.
- 1882—Ambrose R. Hunting.

Statement of the aggregate valuation of the town and amount of taxes levied and assessed in 1880.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Assessed value of real estate... | \$368,619.00 |
| Assessed value of personal property..... | 69,500.00 |
| Corrected value of real and personal..... | 488,475.00 |
| Amount of town tax..... | 1,165.85 |
| County tax on town..... | 2,665.83 |
| State tax for schools..... | 903.67 |
| Amount State tax.. | 921.15 |
| Aggregate taxation..... | 5,655.63 |
| The tax rate in the town was | .0125 |

The area of the town is 17,211 acres and the number of names on the tax list three hundred and fifteen.

Merchants.—Upon the retirement of Ezra Gallup from the mercantile business, George Dominick succeeded him, whose contemporary for a while was a Mr. Lawrence; John Schoolcraft followed, and for several years did a lucrative business, but at last removed to Schoharie, C. H., and engaged in a hotel where he died at an advanced age, and was known far and near as "Uncle Johnny." From time to time others located here, among whom were David Zimmer, Sanford Marsellas, David Hilts, Peter Becker & Son, and Wright & Giddings, although they may not have followed in the order given. The present merchants are, Jacob Kelsh and O. F. Plank, the latter the present postmaster, and the former acting justice of the peace.

Physicians.—Upon the founding of the village, Dr. Slade located here but removed and left a vacancy which was filled by Doctors VanDyke and Foster of Schoharie, the two leading professionals of this part of the County at that day.

Dr. Darius Coy came about the year 1832 and was followed in a few years by Ira Zeh, who formed a copartnership with his student the present practicing, John Houghtaling, who upon the dissolution of the connection, remained as the only professional of the town, until two years ago, when Dr. O. A. Snyder located, and still remains.

CHAPTER XXII.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF SCHOHARIE.

FIRST SETTLERS OF BRUNNENDORF—SCHAEFFER FAMILY AND NAME—RELICS FOUND—LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PARSONAGE—DOMINIE SOMMERS, AND OTHER PASTORS—DOCTOR LINTNER—REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH—BAPTISM OF GERSINA—CHURCH CONVERTED INTO A FORT—DOCTOR BUDD—COLONEL VROMAN'S GRAVE—DAVID WILLIAMS' MONUMENT—SIMON HOOSICK MIX—"POST MIX"—PETER MIX—FIRST CLERK OF THE COUNTY—DR. BRIGHAM—PHYSICIANS OF SCHOHARIE—CAPTAIN MANN—CAPTAIN SNYDER—TAVERNS—PRESENT HOTELS—FOX'S DORF—DIETZ FAMILY—COLONEL WILLIAM DIETZ—WILLIAM FOX AND SETTLERS OF FOX'S DORF—SMITH'S DORF—COURT HOUSE—GEORGE TIFFANY—JACOB, JOHN, AND JOHN, JR., GEBHARD—LAWYERS OF SCHOHARIE—LAWYER FAMILY—GARLOCK'S DORF—JACOB VROMAN—DUANESBURGH TURNPIKE—SAMUEL SMITH—O. H. WILLIAMS—J. G. CARYL—STRUBACH MILL—VILLAGE AT DEPOT—FIRST GRIST-MILL—CARDING MILL—DISTILLERY—HUB FACTORY—WAGON MAKERS—MARBLE WORKS—BUSINESS OF 1810—ENGAGEMENT AT FORT—SCHAEFFER HOUSE AND FAMILY—INCIDENT AT GRIST-MILL—JOHN INGOLD—BOUCK HOUSE, AND OTHER BUILDINGS—BURNING OF COURT HOUSE—GREAT FIRES—FOUNTAIN TOWN SCHOOL HOUSE—SCHOHARIE ACADEMY—METHODIST CHURCH—AFRICAN CHURCH—GEBHARD'S CAVE—SCHOHARIE BRIDGE—FORMATION OF TOWN—FIRST OFFICERS—SUPERVISORS—LUTHERAN CEMETERY—COMMODORE HARDING.

THERE are spots upon which we may stand and let our thoughts take freer scope and revert with greater ease and fondness back upon the scenes of other days, as history and tradition

have painted them upon the retina of our minds. Here beneath the refreshing shade of these pines of the old Lutheran cemetery, we will dwell upon the scenes of many years ago, when giant oaks and pines covered nearly the whole view before us, where those whose ashes lie beneath us, and whose requiem the mourning evergreens have so long sang, came in their honest simplicity, to rear homes for themselves and children, free from regal authority and exactions. Year after year passed away ere their vigorous strokes conquered the mighty forest, and these broad flats and lofty hills yielded to them their virginity, and revealed a richness that vied with nature's best.

Hendrick Schaeffer, Johannes Lawyer and two sons, Johannes Jr., and Jacob Frederick, Hendrick Conradt, Johannes Ingold, Hendrick Haynes, Germans, mostly of the Palatine order, settled here near the ledge of rocks about the year 1718. Purchasing the land together, a division was not made until the year 1753.

In three of the original "dorfs" the settlers were in number seven. They first drew an article of agreement for their lands, and then received the deed, and after holding their possession, perhaps until it became necessary to divide with the children, a general division was made, each individual deed receiving the signatures of the whole. This settlement was distinguished from those above as "Brunnendorf" or "Fountain Town," which (both German and English) name was derived from the springs that issue from the ledge, and especially from the one near the parsonage, whose crystal fount still bubbles refreshing waters for our use, as it did for those hardy pioneers, one hundred and sixty years ago.

The dwelling lots were all to the west of the cemetery, extending as far as the present farm of Martin L. Schaeffer, that was settled by Hendrick Schaeffer. He was one of seven emigrants of that name from Germany in 1710. Two of them, Hendrick and Johannes, settled here and the remainder upon the Hudson and Mohawk. The name was originally written *Schaeffer* and *Schaffer*. At the present time, it is written in various ways, according to the fancy of the family.

Two families, whose children settled in Cobleskill many years after this settlement, from the Hudson, although cousins, varied in the orthoepy of the name, by writing it Shafer and Shaver, as will be seen by consulting the next chapter.

But a few years ago Martin L. Schaeffer was plowing a short distance back of his farm buildings and turned up a portion of a fireplace which was without doubt the spot upon which the first Schaeffer settler's residence stood. Not far from the fireplace was a small head stone, with the initials and date,

ANO 1744 M. E. E.

From this Schaeffer family sprang those of Breakabeen, Carlisle and Sharon.

By a map of "Fountain Town" bearing date 1753, now in possession of Henry Cady, we find that the most easterly building in this dorf was the Lutheran Church, a blue limestone structure, the corner stone of which was laid on the 10th of May, 1750, and on the 6th of May following, was dedicated. It stood upon the ground now occupied as burial lots of Dr. George A. Lintner and John Gebhard, the former having been a resident pastor of the organization for the term of thirty years, long after its founders had crumbled to dust. At what time the organization was effected, the records do not show, but undoubtedly soon after the settlement of the valley was made, and before this little "dorf" was begun. The first vestry meeting was held June 8, 1743, under the following officers:—Abram Berg, elder; Hendrick Schaeffer and Peter Lowenstien, deacons. It was resolved to erect a parsonage for the minister, and a place of worship for the congregation.

On the 3d of July, following, sacrament was administered to one hundred communicants, and on the 12th of September, following, services were held for the first time in the parsonage and continued to be until the erection of the church. The building still stands in the southwest corner of the cemetery, in good repair, and is the oldest one in the County.

Would that a reflection of the scene might again be witnessed that here presented itself one hundred and thirty-eight years ago, as Peter N.

Sommers and his uncouth yet sincere flock gathered and knelt for the first time within those walls before the throne of Him whom they so anxiously desired to adore; but that passed on to the heart of their God to swell the effulgence of his love.

"Previous to the building of the parsonage," Dr. Lintner says in the *Lutheran Magazine* of 1827, of which he was the editor, "the pioneers of these settlements performed services by one of their number reading approved sermons, and occasionally Dominie Berkemeier, of Loonenburgh (Athens-on-the-Hudson) preached to them as they assembled in the most spacious dwellings."

The records of the church have been carefully preserved, and were written originally in High Dutch. The late Dr. Lintner translated them to English, and upon the first page we read:—

"In the name of the Holy Trinity."

"I, Peter Nicholas Sommers, from the city of Hamburg, received on the 7th day of the month September, in the year 1742 the call as Ev. Luth. Preacher in the congregation at Schoharie, authorized by the consistory at St. Tunitatis at London and ordained by the Rev. Johann George Palm for taking charge of said congregation.

"I started from Hamburg for London and under God's almighty protection I arrived at London on the 25th of Oct. Circumstances prevented my setting out for New York and the 27th I started for Albany where I remained until the 25th May. Then I went to Schoharie where I on the first Sunday of Tunitatis preached my introductory sermon. The Lord our God be furthermore with me and my beloved congregation that the great end of my arduous office may be accomplished that the name of the Lord may be glorified. Amen."

Sommers' field of labor was wide, as he preached in the Lutheran settlements of Stone Arabia, Little Falls, Canajoharie, New Rhinebeck, The Camps, Claverack, Loonenburgh, Hoosick, Albany, Helleburgh, and as the country became cleared and settlements made, in Cobleskill and Sharon. He was married to

Maria Keyser, of Stone Arabia, on the 26th of May, 1744, by Dominie Berkemeier, and the fruits of the marriage were ten children, among whom were two pairs of twins. In the year 1768 he was taken suddenly blind and remained so to the close of 1789, when one morning as he awoke, his sight was restored. Upon calling his faithful wife to his bedside, he exclaimed, "I can see!" "What can you see?" she asked. "I can see the trees, you and everything." And to the close of his life his sight was retained.

He died in the town of Sharon in the year 1795, aged eighty-five years, and after many years he was re-interred by the St. Paul's Society but a few rods from the site of the original church. During the Revolutionary war the enemies of our country, of whom so much reverence was not expected, spared the church and parsonage, while nearly all other buildings fell by the British and maddened Mohawk torch.

As that struggle ceased and prosperity dawned upon the once desolated settlement contributions of money and material were made, for the building of a new edifice, and, as the ancient figures upon the belfry tell us, the present brick church was erected in 1796.

In the foundation lie many of the stones of the old church, and upon them are inscribed the names of several of the donors.

The pastors of the church and the date of locating are as follows :—

- Rev. P. N. Sommers, 1743.
- Rev. Anthony T. Braun, 1791.
- Rev. Frederick H. Quitman, 1795.
- Rev. Anthony T. Braun, 1799.
- Rev. Augustus Wackenhagen, 1805.
- Rev. John Molther, 1816.
- Rev. George A. Lintner, 1819.
- Rev. J. R. Keiser, 1850.
- Rev. E. Belfour, 1857.
- Rev. J. H. Heck (present pastor), 1868.

We were pleased to find among the papers of the antiquarian, John Gebhard, Jr., a receipt given by Rev. Peter N. Sommers for his yearly salary. The very affable article was written in German, and upon translating it reads :—

"I gratefully acknowledge to have received

for my yearly Salary from my church Elders and Deacons, Forty Pounds properly and duly paid. Schoharie the 29th of May, 1745.

PETER N. SOMMERS, Pastor."

Perhaps it would be safe to say no minister of this or any other church in the County, endeared himself to the people and churches of all persuasions as did Dr. Lintner, whose pastorate, as will be observed, extended from 1819 to 1849. He was born in the town of Minden, Montgomery county, N. Y., February 15, 1796, and spent his early childhood at the homestead, when at the age of ten years, he was sent to Cooperstown to attend school. He early entered Union College, and after graduating in that institution commenced the study of theology under the direction of Rev. Mr. Domeger, and was licensed to preach by the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of New York in September, 1818. In January, 1819, he accepted a call from this church, and was installed June 16th, of that year. Rev. Edward Belfour, in a memorial published soon after Dr. Lintner's death, says :—

"He was the recognized leader of the young men of his Synod, including Rev. Frederick Schaeffer and H. N. Pohlman, in their manly opposition to what he was wont to call the *Quitman Dynasty of Rationalism*. But after a time he and others became so dissatisfied with the character of the old Synod, that he initiated measures for the organization of a new Synod. A convention was called at Schoharie in 1830, and the result was the formation of the *Hartwick Synod*, of which he was chosen the first president, an office which he often held and graced in after years.

"In 1837, certain members of this Synod withdrew and formed the *Franckean Synod* on the widest latitudinarian basis. The movement was thoroughly revolutionary, and led to vigorous controversies, and even to contests in the courts. Dr. Lintner led the Hartwick Synod and successfully defended himself and associates.

* * * * *

"From the time of his resignation in 1849, he was engaged in promoting the work of foreign missions, of the American Bible Society, and of any other good cause which afforded him

an opportunity to do something for his Master. He was editor of the *Lutheran Magazine* from 1827 to 1831, and contributed to various religious publications, in which he was especially earnest, and as in his sermons, almost bitter in his opposition to the use of all intoxicating liquors and wines.

"He was a man of strong and determined character; he seldom relinquished any purpose, but clung to it most tenaciously until it was accomplished, when that was possible. He closed his eyes for the last time on the scenes of this world, at two o'clock on the afternoon of December 21, 1871."

In the *Lutheran Magazine* of April, 1827, we find, up to that date, 3,691 baptisms had been performed, 778 marriages, and 722 confirmations in the church since its organization. In the year 1753, Rev. Gideon Hawley, the Indian missionary, passed through this place, and in his account of the journey, says:—

"In regard to Schoharie, it is fine land, and settled by Palatines, brought over at the expense of the nation, in Queen Anne's reign. Here are three decent meeting houses and two Dominies, the one a Calvinian, and the other a Lutheran. The language of the people is German or High Dutch, and they are husbandmen."

It has been supposed that the three meeting houses referred to, were the parsonage, (which had been used as such for eight years), the church built in 1750, and the Calvinian, of Weiser's dorf, or Middleburgh.

In speaking of Schoharie in those days, and even down through and after the Revolution, all the settlements in nearly the whole of the County's present territory were included, as there was not a special hamlet bearing the name.

Carrying the idea that the Reformed church of Schoharie village was not built at that time, it might be easily conjectured that the Weiser church was included. But here lies a mistake; the Reformed church of this place stood at Fox's dorf and was built at a much earlier date. The first records were supposed to be lost or destroyed by the burning of the old parsonage, but they were not. The records comprised three volumes; the second was lost, and the first and third are in existence.

We find upon the map of 1750, the church pictured upon it, and find it stood east of the Stone Fort, at the point of the second bend of the creek above the iron bridge, upon a knoll where two or three apple trees may now be seen. The organization was effected about 1728, and we believe the church was erected in 1736.

The general history of this church we have studied, and cannot give it in any better or more truthful light than the Rev. Sanford H. Cobb did in a communication published in the *Schoharie Union*, February 9, 1871. He says:—

" * * * * * One thing which inquiry shows us will be looked on by most as a discovery, is the fact that the organization of the church as a society, antedates the building of the Stone church nearly fifty years. That building was erected in 1772, as appears in numerous inscriptions on the walls of the church. The church as an organized body, with officers and members, was in existence in the year 1730. The last date is the earliest found in the records of the consistorial minutes. In that year, under date of December 3d, is recorded the appointment of Church officers, whose names may be here copied:—

Elders:—

Johannes Vedder,
Johannes Bekker.

Deacons:—

Samuel Hagedoorn,
Pietre Ziele.

"It would seem probable that the formation of the church was a few years previous to that date. In the first Treasurer's book an entry is found under date of 1728.

"It is certain that, whether to a regularly organized congregation or not, the gospel was preached in this place and vicinity by ministers connected with the Classis of Amsterdam, the Holland Classis which had special charge over the Dutch churches in America. Corwin's Manual mentions Hendrik Hager as preaching at East and West Camp, and at Schoharie between 1711 and 1717. The same book also mentions a John Fredrich Hager who officiated * * * in 1720.

* * * * * The labors of Hager were evidently of a missionary character, and were succeeded by those of John Jacob Ehle, whose field embraced Schoharie and the valley of the Mohawk, from 1720 to 1750, and was, subsequent to 1750, a missionary to the Mohawk Indians. It is improbable that either of the men mentioned above was actually a settled pastor over the Schoharie Church.

"The work of Hager commenced the year after the settlement of Schoharie, and the presence here of the two in a missionary capacity, may account for the early establishment of the Reformed Church in the Schoharie valley. The name of the church organized probably between 1720 and 1730, was the Protestant Reformed High Dutch Church of Schoharie.

* * * * * "The first name which has a probable right to be placed on the pastoral record of the church, is that of Reinhardt Erickson. It is signed at the bottom of a consistorial minute as President of Consistory. His pastorate lasted only one year, (1730-31). He was a man of considerable prominence in his day in the church, and very successful in his ministry at Schenectady. * * * * *

He was succeeded in the Schoharie pastorate by George Michael Weiss, or Weitzins, who was a native of the Palatinate. His diploma from the University of Heidelberg, and certificate of ordination are engrossed in Latin on the Records of the Schoharie Church, together with the call made upon him by the church, which is written in German. He came to this country in 1725, and preached in Pennsylvania to the Germans, and in 1731, came to Schoharie, after a visit of a year in Holland. He remained here until 1736, laboring also in adjoining counties, and afterwards returned to Pennsylvania, in which State he died in 1762.

"Weiss was followed at Schoharie in 1736 by Johannes Schuyler. Dominie Schuyler was the first Dutch minister ordained in this country. Previous to this date all ordinations had been performed in Holland, but by express permission of the Classis of Amsterdam, Dominies Erickson and Haeghoort were appointed to ordain Schuyler. Schuyler immediately settled in Scho-

harie, and continued in the pastorate until 1755. Under this pastorate the church formally ranged itself with the Dutch Reformed Church—Dominie Schuyler, with his elders, taking active part in those efforts to form an American Ecclesiastical Judicatory, which afterwards resulted in the formation of the General Synod. Schuyler was twice pastor of this church.

"The first pastorate of nineteen years was between the dates just mentioned. From 1755 to 1766 he was settled over the churches of Hackensack and Scraalenburgh, and in 1766 returned to Schoharie, joining to his second pastorate here the ministry of Beaver Dam.

"This second pastorate lasted until his death in 1778. It was during the last settlement of Dominie Schuyler that the Old Stone Fort was built. * * *

"Dominie Schuyler's name is cut in large letters on the east wall of the old church, together with the date, 1772, and his body was buried beneath the pulpit. Thus, if tradition says correctly, the bones of Schoharie's best known pastor have lain for a century, and their resting place has, in these last years, been desecrated by most profane uses. As the remains at once of a pastor faithful and beloved, and of a patriot animating his brethren in the Revolutionary struggles, they have deserved a better treatment.

"The interval between the two pastorates of Dominie Schuyler was nearly filled by the ministry of two others. The first of these was Johannes Mauritius Goetchius, who labored here from 1757 to 1760. His field here extended over thirty miles. He was educated as a physician and afterward prepared for the ministry. He left Schoharie for Shawangunk and New Paltz, and died in 1771.

"He was succeeded in Schoharie in 1760 by Abraham Rosenkrantz, about whom little can be learned, save the dates of his various pastorates. He remained here until 1765, when he settled at Canajoharie, at which place he probably died in 1794.

"The second pastorate of Dominie Schuyler ended in 1779, and the church, owing doubtless to the political disturbance and war, remained vacant until 1785. In that year the church called one William Schneyder, a student, to be

their pastor. He appeared before the General Synod for examination and ordination, but failing to sustain a creditable examination, he was not ordained, and requested and obtained permission to study another year, and be examined at the next meeting of Synod. Instead, however, of doing this, he solicited and obtained ordination from the German Reformed Church in Pennsylvania, and settled in Schoharie. In the next meeting of the Synod this irregular conduct was noticed, and the Synod instructed the Classis at Albany, to which the Schoharie church belonged, to call the church to account for settling a minister disapproved by the Synod.

"The answer of the church was exceedingly contumacious, in effect telling the Classis that the church at Schoharie was competent to take care of itself, did not desire any interference, and wanted to have nothing further to do with either Classis or Synod!

"From that date (1785) until 1820 the church maintained itself entirely independent unless indeed it may have had some *quasi* relation to the German Coetus. It is impossible to answer this and many other questions which spring up, because of the loss of the consistorial minutes between 1785 and 1820. The book which contained them was destroyed by fire in the kitchen of the second parsonage. The parish register, however, is preserved, and gives a complete record of marriages and births from 1731, together with many historical notes interspersed in the records. From this register most of the dates in this paper are obtained. The pages of the register covered by the pen of this Dominie Schneyder are truly elegant specimens of penman's skill. Schneyder remained but three years, leaving Schoharie in 1788. He was succeeded by J. L. Broeffle, who preached both in Schoharie and Canajoharie, terminating his ministry in the former charge about 1798. There is difficulty in ascertaining the exact dates of Broeffle's giving up the charge here and the instituting of his successor. The more probable solution is the date just given and the speedy installation of J. D. Schaeffer.

"It is possible that the church was ministered to by Rynier Van Ness for a while, though the labors of that man were mainly at Middleburgh.

He may also have filled the vacancy from 1780 to 1785, though no mention is made of him in the Schoharie church books. Under date of 1799 there occurs in the register a rather amusing solitary note by a minister named J. J. Eyermann, whether settled or not does not appear. Beneath this entry is written in Latin, and evidently in the handwriting of Dominie Schaeffer, 'A vagabond unworthy of the name of preacher or pastor.'

"Dominie Schaeffer's pastorate commenced about 1798 or 1800, and continued until 1820, within the memory of many now living among us. At the conclusion of his ministry the church was glad to give up its independent position, and connect itself with the Classis of Montgomery, from which and the Classis of Albany those churches were afterwards set off, which constituted the Classis of Schoharie.

"The ministry of Paul Weidman commenced in 1820 and continued to 1836, followed by that of J. M. Scribner, 1836-1839; Samuel Robertson, 1839-1843; Ransford Wells, 1844-1857; E. Crispell, 1857-1863; S. H. Cobb, 1863-1871; Edwin Vedder, 1871-1873; William C. Handy, present pastor.

"The eastern portion of the congregation was set apart in 1844 to form the church of Gallupville.

"In the same year the Schoharie church occupied the new brick building in the Court House village, and ceased to worship in the Old Stone Church."

The land upon which the church was built has been sold from the original "church lot," which contained fifteen acres.

There have been three different buildings used as parsonages. The first stood near the creek above the first bend, and the second where the third was built and which is now occupied by William Vroman.

Johannes Eckerson, brother of Major Eckerson, of Weiser's dorf, purchased the land of Myndert Schuyler and conveyed it to the "High Dutch Reformed Church" in 1752. We find within the Old Fort the fact of his giving the land, as also by the deed, to be found in the hands of Henry Cady. Within the walls of the old

church a daughter of Joseph Brant or Thayendanegea was christened "Gersina." In all probability the chief and his squaw were on a visit to the valley where the child was born, and falling in with the customs of the whites, the child was christened as soon as the mother could attend church.

In 1772 the old church was razed to the ground upon the completion of building the one now called the "Stone Fort." The control of the church was wafted to the hands of the Low Dutch soon after the Revolution, but at present the descendants of each unite as one around the altar reared so long ago by their forefathers, and we trust, with the same honest, earnest simplicity as characterized them in their worship of their God.

A new church was built in the year 1845, and the stone building was purchased by the State, and for a number of years used as an arsenal, but not being necessary for that purpose, through the efforts of Peter Couchman, at that time Member of Assembly, the State deeded the property to the County in 1872, and by a small appropriation by the board of supervisors yearly, it is kept in repair.

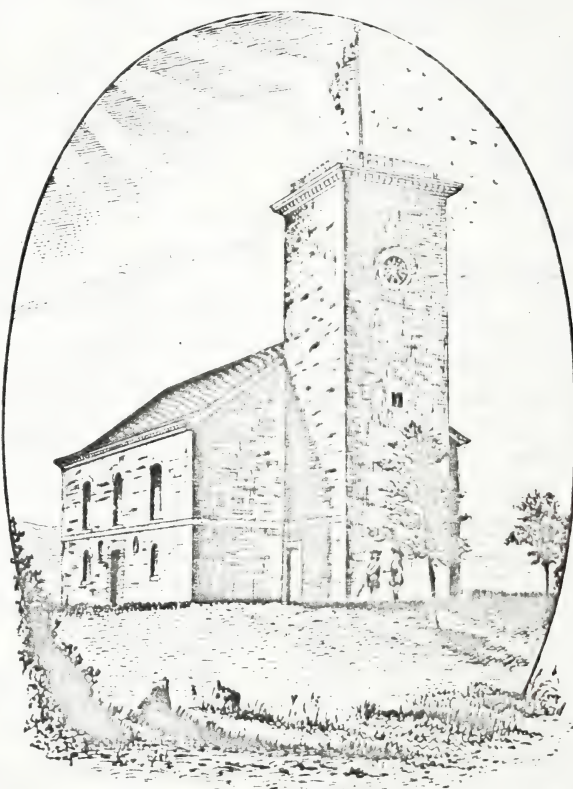
We would here say further upon the subject of the organization of the two churches here, that both, in their time, suddenly appeared here as a meteor in the heavens, full fledged, without the usual church formalities of organization, and it is not at all probable there were any. From vague sources we are led to think the Lutherans organized at Hartman's dorf before settling here, but he have not any proof that could be relied upon.

As hostilities between the Colonies and the mother country became more desperate, and the safety of the people in this section more uncertain, in the fall of 1777 small block-houses were built in the southeast and northeast corners of the stone church, and the whole inclosed by pickets, and the house of God became a fortress. Beneath its roof the inhabitants of the surrounding country found safety from the invasions of the Indians and Tories. Many, many anxious nights were here passed

by those worried yet determined patriots, expecting each moment to look abroad over these beautiful flats and see their homes fall by the Mohawk's torch, and hear the dying struggles of their kinsmen who dared to remain upon their own hearthstones.

As we approach the Old Fort we can but feel we are upon hallowed ground—ground bathed by mothers tears, fathers sweat and privation, and the blood of noble sons, that bespeak grandeur and sublimity of character which will resound to succeeding generations.

Even these rough walls display that beauty which polished marble fails to show, as the patriotic deeds here enacted are reflected upon each rough layer, making them emeralds in Freedom's structure. Near by to the east lived Dr. Budd, the delegate to the secret meeting in Albany in 1774, whose ashes lie in the Lutheran Cemetery, beneath a marble slab bearing the inscription:—"In memory of Doct. Daniel Budd, who departed this life March 20th, A. D. 1815, aged 65 years, 2 months and 18 days." Dr. Budd was a native of New Jersey, and settled here about the year



THE OLD STONE FORT.

1770, and was, we believe, the first American read physician in the County. He was a surgeon in the French war, and came to Schoharie with the Schoharie company, under Captain Hager, from Lake George. Some years previous to his death he built the house now occupied by Paul Dietz, where he died, respected by all who knew him as a skillful physician, enterprising inhabitant and true patriot.

Here within the yard in which the old fort stands, lie many patriots. A small red sand stone marks the spot that contains the ashes of Colonel Peter Vroman and exhibits the "ingratitude of Republics" in a manner too noticeable. The graves of such unflinching soldiers should be honored by more imposing looking monuments. And here lie also the remains of David Williams, one of the captors of Major Andre, beneath an appropriate monument erected by the State at an expense of two thousand dollars, in 1876.

The remains were brought from Rensselaerville, on the 19th of July, escorted by a large procession, and on the 23d of September, the 96th anniversary of Andre's capture, the corner stone of the monument was placed and an address delivered by Grenville Tremain, of Albany, before an audience of several thousand people.

Dr. Daniel Knowler, whose energies were excited in the enterprise as a State Commissioner to erect the monument, conceived the inscriptions upon it which are on the east side, written on a shield:—

"HERE RESTS THE REMAINS OF
DAVID WILLIAMS,
ONE OF THE CAPTORS OF
MAJOR ANDRE.
DIED IN SCHOHARIE COUNTY,
AUGUST 2D, 1831,
AGED 76 YEARS, 6 MOS., 8 DAYS."

Underneath:—

"He with his compatriots, John Paulding and Isaac Van Wart, on the 23d of September, 1780, arrested Major John Andre, and found on his person treasonable papers in the handwriting of Gen. Benedict Arnold, who sought by treachery to surrender the military post of

West Point into the hands of the enemy. In resisting the great bribes of their prisoner for his liberty, they showed their incorruptible Patriotism, the American Army was saved, and our beloved Country became free."

Upon the marble base is "David Williams," upon the north side a monogram of David Williams; within a circle below is, "Vincit Amor Patriæ," and beneath:—

"Gen. Washington's letter to the President of Congress, October, 1780: 'The party that took Major Andre acted in such a manner as does them the highest honor and proves them to be men of great virtue.'"

On the south side upon a shield is "Fidelity," and below:—

"By authority of Congress, in 1780, a silver medal was voted to them, and presented to the captors by Gen. Washington, at a dinner to which he invited them while the army was encamped near Ver Planck's Point."

Upon the west side is engraved upon a plain shield:—

"NANCY BENEDICT,

WIFE OF

DAVID WILLIAMS.

DIED AUGUST 5, 1844, AGED 87 YRS.,
6 MOS., 8 D'YS.

And beneath:—

"This monument was erected by the State of New York from an appropriation made in the Centennial Year of 1876, by a bill introduced by Senator W. C. Lamont under the following State Commissioners:

"DANIEL KNOWER,
"RALPH BREWSTER,
"CHARLES HOLMES."

The monument is of Massachusetts marble, having a granite base, upon which is placed a marble block, the base of a shaft thirteen feet in height—the whole being twenty-three feet nine inches high.

Near by, to the northwest corner of the Fort, is a plain, yet neat monument, to the memory of Simon Hoosick Mix, who fell at the battle of Petersburg, on the 15th of June, 1864. Mr.

Mix was born in Johnstown, N. Y., February 25, 1825, and was the son of Peter Mix, long known as the editor and proprietor of the *Schoharie Patriot*. At the age of thirteen Mr. Mix published, in the office of his father, a small paper called *The Star*, and in after years he followed his parent in the publication of the *Patriot*, which was subsequently changed to the *Schoharie Union*. His natural taste was for literature, and the many productions from his pen were able and pleasing, exhibiting a finer expression of sentiment than is usually found in the columns of the majority of country periodicals. When the Rebellion commenced, Mr. Mix volunteered his services to raise a regiment of cavalry, but was opposed by the Secretary as being a useless appendage to the army, but through his plausible reasoning Mr. Mix was commissioned to organize the regiment which was called Van Allen's regiment, in honor of General VanAllen, a friend of Mr. Mix. Mr. Van Allen was commissioned Colonel, and Mr. Mix, Lieutenant-Colonel. The regiment afterwards was changed to the Third New York Cavalry, and was in reality the first volunteer regiment of Cavalry in service. Mix was promoted to Colonel, and was offered higher honors, but refused them.

During 1862 and 1863, his regiment was the only cavalry regiment at Newbern, and was active in all skirmishes in that vicinity. He participated in the actions at Little Washington, Goldsborough, Kingston, and Blantz Mills, and drove the guerrillas from Hyde county, during which act fifteen of a squad of thirty-five men were slain in a swamp at the first fire.

In the fall of 1863 they were called to Fortress Monroe, and were in the siege of Suffolk by Longstreet, and as the Army of the James advanced in the spring of 1864, his regiment was sent to the front of Petersburg, where they arrived on the 11th of May, under the command of General A. V. Kautz. The Army of the Potomac arrived, and the advance upon the rebel works was made on the 14th of June, and lasted during the 15th and 16th.

The rebels had three lines of defense, the first was taken, and upon the charge of the second, on the 15th, Mix fell mortally wounded, at the

head of his regiment. The retirement of the regiment from the charge brought the dead and wounded in the hands of the rebels, among whom was Colonel Mix, whose body was not recovered, and this monument simply stands in the family plat to commemorate his name and deeds, and not to designate the spot which holds his remains.

Colonel Mix was held in high esteem by the men under his command, as an officer and comrade, and by all who knew him as a true, genial, whole-souled man, and in his death the government lost one of her best officers and bravest soldiers.

In honor of Colonel Mix, the veterans of the late Rebellion, from the vicinity, many of whom were in his regiment, organized *Post Mix*, under the rules and regulations of the Grand Army fraternity in 1868.

The charter members of the same were:—

T. J. Shannon,
P. S. Clark,
Cyrus Guffin,
E. Simmons,
C. C. Kromer,
R. W. Kinney,
W. Stocker,
S. W. Hollenbeck,
J. Maternagan,
C. Kniskern,
Edwin Shafer.

Peter Mix, the father of Colonel Mix, was a native of Johnstown, Fulton county, and early learned the printers' trade. He became the editor and proprietor of *The Montgomery Republican* in 1825, and continued the same until 1836, when the office was burned and the paper discontinued. He removed to Schoharie village and commenced the publication of *The Schoharie Patriot* in 1838, and there died.

Not far off lies the first Clerk of the County, Joachim G. Staats, who died in 1801, at the age of thirty years. He was a very good scholar, to judge of his writings, and passed away at an early age.

Beside him lies Dr. Origin Brigham, who died on the 2d of August, 1816, aged fifty-nine years. Doctors Budd and Brigham were here practicing



J. E. Howard, M.D.

at one time, but the former came many years before the latter. Schoharie Village has had a long list of physicians, and among them were several of unusual skill.

The first practicing physician located in the valley, we believe to have been James Lewis, who was here as early as 1730, and closed his career about 1750. One Thomas Yunk or Young soon followed and died in 1770. During Young's time, Dr. Johannes Werth, a German, settled and was succeeded by his son Johannes, Jr. A few of the old doctor's surgical instruments are now in the possession of Tobias Bouck, of Cobleskill, whose wife was a granddaughter of Johannes, Jr.

Following the above early physicians at Schoharie were Doctors Budd, Brigham, Cornelius VanDyck, Joshua Crounse, P. S. Swart, David Budd, Harman Van Dyck, Jacob Beakley, Lorenzo Hubbard, — Lathrop, Justin Rice, Joel Foster, James Crounse, Cornelius C. VanDyck, John I. Swart, John Pindar, and the present practicing physicians, Doctors Wm. S. Layman, Norwood, Kingsley and Kilmer.

Within a very costly vault lie the remains of Benjamin Pond, who came from some eastern State at an early day, and married the daughter of Abram Bergh. After many years of labor and economy, he became the wealthiest man in the County. But while riches guaranteed a life of ease and prominence, disease claimed its victim and death its own, and Pond passed away, leaving the accumulation of years behind, that could not be transported "beyond." His son, A. B. F. Pond, from 1861 to 1865, was editor and publisher of *The Schoharie Republican*, whose able columns exhibited ability that few country journals are fortunate to possess, and which many of the city periodicals would do well to obtain. This cemetery at present belongs to an association, and is being kept in commendable order. Within its limits lie heroes of the three wars that built, established and perpetuated one of the grandest governmental structures the world has ever known, and cemented each part to the other by their blood and privations.

The settlement made here at an early day, was known as Fox's dorf, and around it clustered many scenes that were peculiar to the

Revolutionary struggle, of which we will make mention before going back to consider facts relating to Brunnen and Smith's dorfs.

Across the creek where Peter Vroman now resides, stood the house of Captain George Mann, who espoused the cause of the Crown after receiving a commission in the Provincial service. The old house was built with a stone basement, in which was the bar-room and kitchen, where whites, Indians and negroes assembled and mixed promiscuously and plotted, much to the detriment of the neighborhood's safety. The upper part of the building was brick to the eaves, and if memory serves us aright, they projected through over the basement, making what would be styled at the present time a piazza.

The day of McDonald's flight, Mann sought safety from the Provincials' grasp in the mountain across the creek, and after secreting for several months, he gave himself up to the Colonial authorities, by whom he was kept as a prisoner of war at Albany until the spring of 1778. His property was not confiscated, as his acts had not been such as to make him a very bitter enemy to the cause, and his allegiance to the new government in after years atoned in a measure for his rash conduct.

He was arrested in November, 1777, and after lying in prison until spring, he wrote a letter to Colonel Vroman and others praying for them to intercede in his behalf, to be released from confinement, promising to divulge everything he knew of the Tories' arrangements and become a patriot. He was accordingly released, and proved a true man in the Colonial cause. After the war closed he removed to the present hamlet of Warnerville, where he reared a large and influential family.

Where Jacob Dietz now resides, lived Captain Jacob Snyder, who was at the Stone Fort when Johnson and Brant passed by. Mrs. Snyder carried the rum around to the men, and when the ball struck the eaves of the church, some of the company cried fire! She coolly dropped the rum and ran in the tower to see where the fire was. Not seeing any cause for alarm, she resumed her task as if nothing had occurred. The ball which lodged in the plate, was presented

to her in after years, but being often loaned, it was finally lost from the family's knowledge. At present no less than three balls in the possession of different ones, are said to be the "identical."

Captain Snyder weighed out the rations to the men in the fort with a pair of steelyards, which are now in the possession of Philip Snyder, a grandson of the Captain. The same balances were used in 1812 for the same purpose when the Schoharie Regiment rendezvoused here.

Captain Snyder died in 1786, and his widow married Philip Schuyler, who was boss workman upon building the Stone Fort in 1772. Peter M. Snyder, familiarly known as "Yankee Pete," succeeded his father in the old homestead, and commenced keeping tavern in 1802. In 1817 he built the house in which Jacob Dietz now resides. When he was a boy his father kept tavern and the language spoken by the family and most everybody else that frequented the place, was High Dutch, and when business called a Yankee in these parts, as it occasionally did, in the form of peddlers and speculators, it became necessary to have some one to communicate with them. Peter M. was the chosen interpreter, and became as proficient in the Yankee language as it was possible for a High Dutch tongue, and there being three Peter Snyders, Peter M. was ever after called "Yankee Pete." His son, Philip, succeeded him and continued the business for several years. But the building of railroads destroyed the profits of "tavern-keeping" on all the turnpike roads, and this old stand was promoted to a private dwelling.

Alluding to taverns, we might here notice them entire as they were in "Ye olden time," and particularly in the early part of the present century.

Missionary Hawley, in his narrative of his visit here in 1753, says:—

"And at dusk we arrived at the nearest house between Fort Hunter and Schoharie (Kneiskern's Dorf), but did not put up until we came to what was accounted a public house, but very unfit for the entertainment of gentlemen strangers. It had only one room, and in that room was a slaw-bunk with a straw bed upon which we lodged.

This, however, was not the worst of it, for we had been contented with coarse fare and ill accommodations, in case we could have had quiet rest, but the unhappiness of our case was that it was at the end of the week, and to spend their wages three or four old countrymen came in and gamed and drank through the night, within a foot of our bed. We remonstrated and complained, but in vain. Having had broken rest through the week, we needed balmy sleep to refresh us, but of which we were denied."

Who was the keeper of the inn referred to we are unable to say, but believe it to have been one of the Lawyers. During the Revolution, John I. Lawyer kept near the parsonage; afterwards Johannes Ingold, who was followed by his son Johannes, Jr. So it will be seen during the Revolution, there were two inns, Lawyer's and Mann's. Previous to 1800, and a few years after, John Ingold remained in the old stand, while within the distance of two miles, no less than nine sprang up like mushrooms, and at one time were all doing a thriving business. We will here give their locations and the prominent keepers, but may not be correct as to the time. There were four in the village. Chester Lasell kept where the Parrott House now stands, and Andrew Loucks where the late Peter Osterhout resided. The original tavern where Wood's Hotel now stands, was a wood building, and kept by David Swart, afterwards by Abraham Keyser, and was burned while occupied by Alex. Vrooman, brother of Jacob. A brick structure was placed in its stead by him. Some time after the establishment of the taverns already mentioned, the residence of General Wm. Mann was purchased by Sheriff Peter Osterhout, and converted into a hotel, and after passing through several hands, it was bought by John Schoolcraft, and for several years known as the "Mansion House." In 1868 the building was burned, and upon its site stands "Union Block."

Further down, Christian Lawyer held forth where the late Wm. Winter resided, and Peter Vrooman could be found in the stone house still standing upon the "Gardiner" farm.

Having thus alluded to the early taverns and their numbers, we will copy from the town records the inn keepers and the amount each

paid in 1805 for license. It must be remembered the territory of the town was much larger than at present.

The record says:—"the account of the money Collected the ensuing year, of the several Keepers of Inns and Taverns, the sums as are annexed to each person's name respectively, in conformity to the act entitled: An act to lay a duty of Excise on Strong & Spirituous Liquors, & to regulate Inns and Taverns:—

May 71

1805

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Peter M. Snyder..... | \$5.00 |
| John Young..... | 5.00 |
| Jacob Lawyer, Jr..... | 5.00 |
| John Herrick, Jr..... | 5.00 |
| David Lawyer, Jr..... | 6.00 |
| William Sloan, Jr..... | 7.00 |
| Daniel Hare..... | 5.00 |
| David Swart..... | 7.00 |
| Bartholomew Swart..... | 6.00 |
| Peter Kow..... | 5.00 |
| Christian Lawyer..... | 5.50 |
| John Rosekrans..... | 5.00 |
| Peter Vroman, Jr..... | 5.00 |
| Christopher Wetsel..... | 5.00 |
| John Brown, Jr..... | 5.00 |
| Jacob L. Lawyer..... | 5.00 |
| John Dominick, Jr..... | 5.00 |
| DeWalt Hilts..... | 5.00 |
| Jacob Snyder, Jr..... | 5.00 |
| Judah Burton..... | 5.00 |
| Josias Hager..... | 6.00 |
| Jacob W. Hilton..... | 4.50 |
| Joseph Wright..... | 1.67 |

Total..... \$118.67

We have placed before us, by Henry Cady, a license bearing date 1811, given to Peter Vrooman, "to keep an inn as it was necessary." At the same time Cornelius Vrooman kept upon the old Mann place. Yankee Pete came next, while further on was Peter Mann; still beyond Jacob Snyder, cousin of Yankee Pete, held forth where Smith Couch now resides.

In place of those nine inns, we have but three whose spacious appearance exhibits the same progression in that branch of business as we find in everything else.

The first houses of entertainment were called inns; as they became more polished they were called taverns, but at the present time, in accordance with their elevation in space and appearance, they are recognized as hotels, and the three which are located here add much to the appearance of the village.

Wood's Hotel is fitted to accommodate over one hundred guests, while the Parrott House, not to be excelled, finds ample space for nearly double that number. The Taylor House is upon a smaller scale, but pleasant surroundings can be found within its walls.

Fox's dorf proper was upon the south side of the creek, around the present "stone fort" and the settlement upon the north side was not made until a much later date. The lands lying between the creek and Garlock's dorf were not purchased by actual settlers until 1771, when Peter Mann, Johannes Ball, of Beaver Dam and Aker of Canajoharie, purchased of — Bleeker. Aker sold his interest to William and John Dietz, of Beaver Dam, sons of Johannes Dietz who was massacred by the Indians in 1782, at the latter place. William was a blacksmith, and a true patriot, and settled nearly opposite of William Dietz's present residence. He had four sons, Peter, Philip, Abram and William, who became prominent citizens and reared large families, that have of late years dwindled down to few in numbers, in comparison with other old families. Two daughters followed the custom of the day and married into the leading families of Fountain Town and Kneiskern's dorf. Maria married John Sidney, whose ancestor was one of the seven of the latter settlement under the name of Sidnic, and Christina united with John Lawyer, and was perhaps considered the "fortunate one" in those days, by becoming connected with the land autocrats of the country. The latter removed to Jefferson county where their children still reside. Eva, the only daughter of John Dietz, also became interested in that family and married Abraham Lawyer, the son of Johannes, the large landholder.

Colonel William Dietz the youngest of the four brothers became the leading politician of

the County. He was a self-made man, receiving only the meager advantages of the district school, but became a very good scholar for those days and superior in business affairs.

Working in unison with William C. Bouck under the "Albany Regency," a political clique formed by the leaders of the Democratic party, he made a successful career in which the charge of official corruption was not made by his opponents, with any foundation of truth. Colonel Dietz was early promoted from one office to another in the militia service, until he was appointed Colonel. He was elected supervisor of the town in 1812, and to the Assembly in 1814 and 1815, with William C. Bouck, and again in 1823 with Peter W. Snyder. In 1825, 1826 and 1827 he was in Congress, and the honor of State Senator was conferred upon him successively in 1830, 1831, 1832 and 1833. It will be seen that Colonel Dietz was a prominent man and held responsible official positions. He did a vast amount of business in the settling of estates, and was an honest, careful man, in whom all had confidence. He was naturally quiet and sought the society of neighbors and the quiet of home to the publicity and extravagant customs with which an official life is apt to bring one in contact. After a useful life he died at his home on the 24th of August, 1848, at the age of eighty, leaving but one heir, David, who also has passed away.

David's children were William, Mrs. Merrill and Mrs. Boughton, of Schoharie and Mrs. Judge John Mann, of Milwaukee, Wis. who are the only heirs to perpetuate the name and virtues of one of Schoharie's gifted sons.

The founder of Fox's dorf was one William Fox, who for reasons unknown to the writer, removed to Stone Arabia, then a part of Palatine, with several others about the year 1755 or 1760, where his descendants may still be found. In the beginning of the century his grandson removed to the town of Sharon, where he died in 1816 leaving a family of four sons, two of whom are still living at advanced ages bearing the impress of the early settlers, in form, muscle and longevity. The Snyder family we believe to be the only one of the original settlers of this dorf still remaining. There were the Akers,

Funks, Werths, Kobells, Stahls, (Stalls) Mancks, (Monks) Hogebooms and perhaps many others in this settlement, but about the time Fox, the leader removed, they scattered here and there and gave place to others. The Beckers of the High Dutch branch and Zimmers were of a later date, and settled farther up the creek, but a few years previous to and after the Revolution they were owners of property in and around the dorf.

In the early settlement of this place four dorfs were located within the distance of two and one half miles,—Brunnen, Fox's, Smith's and Garlock's.

Having located the two former, the third was pleasantly situated where the railroad depot now stands.

By the divisions made upon the map before alluded to, there were but seven residents here in the first settlement. The map shows a space of land along the creek unoccupied. All of the lots in this dorf of value, were divided into seven parts, that each resident might stand equal with the others.

When the lands were bought, upon which the separate settlements were made, they were purchased by all together, and remained undivided many years; perhaps until the marriage of children requiring means to start in life, compelled the parents to know what belonged to them individually. The papers relating to Fox's and Smith's dorfs are not to be found, and without doubt are lost forever, leaving us in the dark as to their true history. But we are inclined to think the Fox settlement was made a short time prior to Brunnen dorf about the year 1715 or 1717.

The founder or List-master of Smith's dorf was Johannes George Smith, who was under John Peter Kneiskern while at the Camps, and upon the Canadian expedition in 1711. When excavations were made for the foundation of the engine house, several skulls and other bones were found, which leads us to believe it to have been the burial ground of the dorf.

Opposite of this settlement near the creek, was an Indian encampment, but of what tribe and numbers, appearance and customs, we are unable to tell.

Before the Court House was built, the road running through Fountain Town, ran from house to house near the ledge of rocks as it was made in the beginning of the settlement.

When the question of locating the Court House was agitated, the people of the settlement promised to give the lands to the County for a site, and when it was established and built (1800), the road was changed to its present position. When this County was formed in 1795, not having a Court House, all business was transacted at "the house of Johannes Ingold." With the exception of holding Courts and meetings of the Board of Supervisors, the busiest part of the town was at Fox's dorf, and at this place the aristocratic portion of the town settled.

After the close of the Revolution, Colonel Peter Vrooman, having his building burnt in Vroomansland by the Indians, purchased the old mill standing here (built about 1760) and built the dwelling now occupied by Samuel Stevens. Beside Dr. Budd, the Dietz family were to be found near.

About 1790 George Tiffany, a native of New Hampshire, came and settled in the old High Dutch parsonage as a residence. His office was in one end of the piazza of George Mann's tavern. Here Gen. Thomas Lawyer studied the profession. He married Tiffany's sister after settling at Lawyersville. Tiffany represented this district in the State Senate in 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, and was a well qualified lawyer, whom the Schoharie County bar may look back upon with pride. Tiffany was followed in 1794, by Jacob Gebhard, of Claverack, Columbia county. They were the only lawyers by profession in the place for a number of years.

Jacob's brother John came and studied with him, and these two are the progenitors of the present Gebhard family of Schoharie County. Prominent among them is John Gebhard, Jr., still living. He was born in Schoharie in 1802, and received a limited education in the schools of the place. Possessing an enquiring mind and being fond of reading, he has acquired much through his exertions that the schools he attended could not inculcate.

He was elected to the County Clerkship in

1828, and held the office two terms. In 1846 he was delegate to the Third Constitutional State Convention with ex-Governor William C. Bouck. The latter did not vote for its adoption in the Convention, while Mr. Gebhard voted in the affirmative. In 1849 he was appointed Curator of the State Cabinet, which position he held to the year 1856. Mr. Gebhard was for many years a justice of the peace, and has spent over sixty years in the study of geology. His cabinet was purchased by the State a few years ago, and placed in the Geological rooms at Albany, adding much to the attraction of the latter.

George Tiffany removed to Canada and died at Ancaster, province of Ontario, in 1842, aged seventy-six, leaving no heir to perpetuate his name.

Following Tiffany and Gebhard as lawyers, came Peter W. Quackenboss, Cornelius E. Yates, John Cuyler, John Gebhard, Isaac Hall Tiffany, Hermanus Bouck, Elias Halliday and Henry Hamilton before the year 1815. They were gentlemen of marked abilities, whose legal careers were such as would cope with any in the State—especially that of Henry Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton came from Herkimer county as a school teacher, and studied law with Tiffany. In 1818 he was appointed District Attorney, being the first one ever holding that office in the County, and which he held creditably to himself and satisfactorily to the people until the year 1821. In the year 1832 he received the appointment of Surrogate which office he held two years. Mr. Hamilton married the daughter of David Lawyer, and once formed a partnership with Jacob Houck, Jr., and afterwards with Charles Goodyear. In the "Stone Fort" cemetery stands a plain marble shaft bearing the dreaded conclusion of every one's life:—

"DIED JUNE 1ST, 1846.

AGED 58."

General William Mann was the next who established an office here, and was soon followed by Jacob Houck, Jr., from Catskill (1827).

The same year Charles Goodyear, of Lawyersville, after graduating at Union College and studying with Henry Hamilton, was admitted to practice, and opened an office in that of Hamilton. Being a careful, earnest worker, he soon

established a reputation that equalled any of his predecessors in his profession, and was called upon by the people to represent them in the Assembly in 1840, and in Congress in 1845 and 1847—also in 1865, 1867. In 1848 Governor Young appointed him Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. Upon the organization of the Schoharie Bank in 1852, Mr. Goodyear was elected President, which position he held to within a short time previous to his removal to the South in 1868. Mr. Goodyear was unfortunate in a financial point of view, during the insane speculations that followed the Civil war, and to sustain that honor which years of fair and honest dealing had obtained, his ample fortune was sacrificed, and he removed to Charlottesville, Va. There his legal qualifications were again appreciated, and he was placed in the Judicial chair, and tendered other positions which he felt compelled to refuse. On the 9th of April, 1876, he died at his Southern home, in the seventy-second year of his age.

Next in order came Wm. H. Davis, Wm. A. Sternbergh, Ralph Brewster, Joseph Mackey, Robert C. Martin, Nathan P. Hinman, Almerin Gallup, Hobart Krum, Stephen L. Mayham, (see Blenheim), N. L. F. Bachman, Chauncey Hinman, John B. Grant, B. M. Handy, F. M. Mayham, C. L. Bailey, and Wilfred Thomas. The last ten, together with Mr. Brewster, are at present residents of the village, and form, as did their predecessors, a staff of lawyers, whose abilities have often been admired by different courts. Several of the gentlemen named, beside Tiffany, Hamilton and Goodyear, have held official honors, as will be seen by consulting the Civil List of the County.

We find upon the map of 1750, that two families by the name of Lawyer were residents here at that date, and the question that has puzzled the Lawyer family for years has been, "To what branch do I belong?" All hold direct relationship to Johannes, the great land-holder; but who was he? Was he the first Lawyer that settled in the valley, or was he a son of the first? We have the wills of the three Johannes Lawyers, that followed each other in succession, giving the names of the children, and in comparing them with other records, we find that we have the lineage correct. It is evident that the

first and only man by that name in America, settled in the Schoharie valley. The family has become numerous, extending over the whole United States, and all trace their lineage to the Lawyer of Schoharie. The progenitor of the family was Johannes Lawyer, a merchant of New York City, who came here as an Indian trader, and was commissioned to survey and do business for the Germans. The first notice of him in the valley, was in 1720. He was a German, coming from some place along the Rhine, and emigrated about the year 1710. He settled two of his sons—Johannes, Jr., near the old parsonage, and Jacob Frederick, upon the Beller place, about the year 1718. After a few years he settled with Jacob Frederick and kept store, and died sometime between 1760, the date of his will, and 1765, the proving of it. He was buried in the Lutheran cemetery. He was a practical surveyor.

His will states that he was a merchant, and had five children, namely:—Johannes, Jacob Frederick, Lawrence, Elizabeth and Sophia. At the writing of the will Sophia was dead, and her children by her two husbands, "Jost Bellinger and Christian Ziele," were to share the mother's portion. Elizabeth married Marcus Rickert, and upon his decease, Hendrick Haynes, whom we find, by the old map, was settled between Johannes and Jacob Frederick. Haynes afterward settled in the present town of Seward. The will gave each one of his children "one-fifth part of his estate, both real and personal," without stating any real estate in particular. His wife was then living and enjoyed the whole until death. Johannes received his surveyor's utensils. The will was witnessed by Peter N. Sommers, Johannes Schaeffer, and Frank Otto. Upon the death of this man, tradition says, the people of the surrounding country assembled and had a gala day. Casks of liquor and tobacco were freely rolled out for the occasion, as was the custom in those days at funerals. Johannes, the son, followed his father as surveyor, and became a large land-holder, owning at one time thirty-six thousand acres of land, principally in the present territory of the County. No doubt he received a good start from his father, and perhaps purchased considerably before his father's death. He was a very careful business

man, and like his father before him, married twice. His first wife was a daughter of Adam Vroman, 2d, and Christina Sternbergh, and their children, were as follows:—

Catharine, (Mrs. Abram Strubach); Elizabeth, (Mrs. Adam Ziele); Maria, (Mrs. General Bartholomew Swart); Rebecca, (Mrs. Dr. Budd); Lambert, of Cobleskill, (married Catharine Lawyer); Jacob, (married Nancy Mann); Abraham, (married Eva Dietz); Johannes, the 3d, (married Angelica Swart); David, (married Christina Sternbergh); Christian, (married Catharine Snyder); Henry, (married Catharine Sternbergh); Peter, (married Nancy C. Bergh).

Jacob Frederick's (the 1st) children were as follows:—

Johannes, (the third large landowner); Lawrence, of Cobleskill; Catharine, (Mrs. Lambert Lawyer, of Cobleskill); Jacob; Nicholas; David; Elizabeth, (Mrs. Lambert Sternbergh, Jr.).

Lawrence's (the 1st) children were as follows:—

Johannes Jacob, (father of Mrs. Governor Bouck); Jacob, (Little Jacob, so-called, whose widow is still living with her son, Elijah Lawyer); Lawrence and John L., the Ensign of the Revolution, (whose son, Samuel, of Crysler's Hook, was succeeded by the late John S. Lawyer); and Mrs. Lawrence Lawyer, of Cobleskill.

Having given the line of the first and second generation, we will follow Johannes the 3d, in a direct line, who settled upon the Lasell place, and was not a large landowner. His children were as follows:—

John I., (married Ruth Allen, of Catskill); Gertrude, (Mrs. Judge William Fletcher, of Detroit); Maria, (Mrs. Harmonus Bouck); Susan, (Mrs. Samuel Lawyer, of Crysler's Hook); Christina, (Mrs. John Armstrong, afterwards Mrs. Derick Van Vechten); Sarah, (Mrs. John Feek, afterwards Mrs. DeFrate).

Johannes' (the son of the first Jacob Frederick, and the third large landowner,) children were as follows:—

Adam, Jacob Frederick, John I. I., Thomas, of Lawyersville, Anna, Rebecca, Eva and Wilhelmina.

When Johannes, the 2d, received his rents and installments, it was the custom of the whole family to assemble and have a general time of feasting. A dividend was made, and each received their share, little caring for the splendor their income might grant them. We might here state, in part, to prove that the second Johannes was the large landholder; that nearly all of the purchases were made after the death of the first Johannes. The lot of land lying in Cobleskill, granted to Jacob Borst and Lawyer, and one in Seward, bearing the date of 1752 and 1761, were two exceptions. The large tract to the east of Schoharie was granted in 1768, also the one lying to the west of Morris and Coeymans, at Central Bridge, as the government did not allow any one person to "take up" more than one thousand acres. Lawyer formed a partnership with thirty-six different men, and after receiving the grants, he purchased their interest at a nominal sum. One Zimmer was interested in many of the grants with Lawyer, and sold out to him for one thousand acres, which lay upon and around the present elevation that bears the name of "Zimmer Hill."

In 1796 Jabez W. Throop came from Connecticut, and worked as a mechanic until the year 1800, when he commenced upon a very limited scale, to "keep store." By careful and honest dealing he established a trade that is still retained by his son, O. B. Throop, after a lapse of seventy-nine years. It is an example of perseverance and stability in business that is very seldom witnessed or experienced. Through all the changes that have been brought about within that time—financial reverses of less and more pretentious concerns, and brighter prospects of gain in other places—this house has kept steadily on, outliving the long list of those we have mentioned, upon the same ground that the humble store of 1800 was built.

Another former merchant of the place deserves mention. Peter Osterhout, Sr., came to Schoharie about the year 1820, and commenced upon a limited capital. By strict attention to business and honest dealing he soon enlarged his stock and trade, and became, as did Mr. Throop, one of the leading merchants of the County. It was thought for many years, that

an article that could not be found at either Osterhout's or Throop's, was not to be found anywhere. Mr. Osterhout died on the 8th of March, 1872, at the advanced age of eighty-two.

A correspondent of the *Schoharie Republican* and former resident of the village, communicated the following in addition to the foregoing. He says:—

"In all probability I have forgotten the names of some, but I call to mind the following:—Nicholas Bouck, Rice Orcutt, John G. Gebhard, Jr., Almerin Gallup, Petherel Millspaugh, Peter Mesick, Simeon Deyo, James France; all the foregoing keeping what is known as a "general assortment." John I. Lawyer, (hardware); Warren S. Gates, (stoves and tinware); Abram A. Keyser, (stoves and tinware); George Lawrence, (groceries and liquors); Lewis A. Butler, (clocks and jewelry); Mr. Willard, from Catskill, (clocks, &c). The following firm names, from the single names just given were well known in their day: Bouck & Orcutt, Gebhard & Orcutt, Orcutt & France, Millspaugh, Mesick & Co.

"I also called to mind the name of Charles Vogel, (hardware, tin, &c.) His father, Frederick Vogel, who was a watch and clock maker, may have kept a small jewelry store. It is but half a score of years when William O. Root, kept clocks, jewelry, stationery, &c. Washington Throop, brother of Origin B. Throop was in copartnership with his father, Jabez W. Throop.

"I have an indefinite recollection as to having heard that a Mr. Peter Bunker was in trade way back to forty-five or fifty years ago; and that Mr. Bunker was a foundling brought up and raised by Harmanus Bouck, whose daughter he afterwards married. Rice Orcutt married another daughter of Harmanus Bouck. Nicholas Bouck, a son of Harmanus, and Rice Orcutt constituted the firm of Bouck & Orcutt, above named. Before the dissolution of the firm Nicholas Bouck, as one of the firm of Bouck & Barnes, engaged in the wholesale dry goods business in the city of New York. Nicholas Bouck's first marriage was with Ann Lintner, a sister of the late Rev. Dr. George A. Lintner, whom the writer remembers as a

bright, cheerful young woman, always happy in making the little folks happy. After the death of his first wife Mr. Bouck married Sarah Worcester, a graduate of the Albany Female Academy and the first Preceptress of Schoharie Academy, a most accomplished and refined lady. She was a sister of Mr. Worcester, who has long been the Treasurer of the New York Central Railroad Company. Mr. Bouck having died, his widow married John C. Wright, for many years First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Schoharie County; afterwards State Senator (four years) and subsequently (1851) elected Comptroller of the State.

"Among the head clerks whom I call to mind, and who were in reality the managers of superintendents for their principals, were Mr. Jephtha R. Simms, (Mr. Roscoe speaks of him as principal, and possibly he was,) a most affable and courteous gentleman, who must have controlled a large trade, Mr. Orrin Kibbe, (many years with Peter Osterhout, Sr.,) a Mr. Best, (with Millspaugh, Mesick & Co.,) a very reliable man and the father of Mr. Jacob H. Settle's wife, and Messrs. Elijah Lawyer and William Osterhout (with Almerin Gallup)."

Garlock's dorf.—Some time after the settlement of Weiser's and Hartman's dorf, and perhaps the time Fox's settlement was made, another hamlet sprang up where Jacob Vrooman now resides, known as Garlock's dorf. It has been stated that Elias Garlock was the head man, and that he was a "List-master" at the Camps. The List-master at the Camps was John Christopher Garlock, and *not* Elias—undoubtedly Elias was Christopher's son. The farm upon which Elias Garlock settled (Jacob Vrooman's) was purchased of him by Josias Swart in 1764, and other lands joining, by Barent Vrooman, the grandfather of the present Jacob, in 1765. We find the Garlocks were settled near Canajoharie in 1768, which confirms the statement of the Garlocks leaving the valley at the time Conrad Weiser did, on account of the land difficulties referred to in the second chapter of this work. John Christopher witnessed the conveyance, and we are led to believe he removed from the Camps at an earlier day to Canajoharie, and was the means

of drawing Elias away from this valley. There is a map of Stone Arabia in the possession of John Gebhard, Jr., bearing date of 1758, which is a copy of one found by Johannes Lawyer while then surveying, and we find among the residents noted, Christopher and Elias Garlock. But these conveyances of 1764 and '65, to Swart and Vrooman, say: "I, Elias Garlock, of Schoharie, &c." Lawyer must have copied the map after Elias settled there, and instead of the former owner of the lots, placed that of Elias and John Christopher Garlock upon it. That they were the same men we have abundant proof. Barent Vrooman married the daughter of Josias Swart, and became the possessor of the greater share of the property.

This hamlet comprised almost if not more than forty families, and what became of them we are unable to tell. As Hartman's dorf, the largest of the settlements, vanished without leaving a mark of its once existence, so has this hamlet disappeared. Across the road from Jacob Vrooman's, the first hatter in the County, Nicholas Delavergne, settled in the year 1784, and remained until 1808, when he removed to Esperance, and was succeeded in this village by Chester Lasell.

Jacob Vrooman the present owner and occupant of the "Garlock farm," is a son of Barent A. Vrooman, in direct line from Adam Vrooman, and was born upon the farm on the 27th of November, 1808. His educational advantages were very limited, as the district schools of his boyhood were very inferior, but unlike many better situated he was energetic and studious, and aspired to practical knowledge. Through inheritance Mr. Vrooman is the possessor of a fine property, as many others of his age along the valley, to which he clings with ancestral pride, regardless of other extended business relations. Mr. Vrooman possesses undaunted energy, with a firmness of character that commands and elevates the business in which he is engaged to a successful status. Becoming interested in the Schoharie Valley Railroad he became its sole owner, and by careful, economical management the road has become a success. With the exception of A. T. Stewart's Florida road, this is believed to

be the only one owned by a single individual in the United States.

Joining Garlock's on the north was "Kneiskern's Dorf," which lies mostly in the town of Esperance, and which we have noticed in the chapter upon that town. Upon the first settlements of these two most northern dorfs, the space of land between the little brook crossing the road north of Jacob Vroman's and William Hallenbeck's farm, was unoccupied, and remained so until about the year 1750, when Lambert Sternbergh's sons, of Kneiskern's dorf, settled upon the farm now occupied by John Lendrum.

In 1811, the "Schoharie and Duanesburgh Turnpike" was built by Thomas P. Danforth, through the farm, to intersect the Great Western Turnpike, "seventeen miles from Albany." Upon the forks of the two roads stands a mansion that was built nearly sixty years ago for a tavern, where the young people of the valley resorted for dancing. Passing down the valley we soon cross the "Central Bridge," which was built in 1823, as was the road leading over the hill east to intersect the Schoharie and Duanesburgh Turnpike, making a direct road from Cobleskill to Albany. In 1824, Samuel Smith built a hotel upon the ground now occupied by Charles Rich, and began a business that grew to paying proportions under his energetic and shrewd management. In 1830, fire swept his establishment away, but soon rebuilding, he continued the business until the year 1847, when Levi Totten purchased the stand, and "Uncle Sam" retired. Charles Rich followed in 1851. In 1825, O. H. Williams, a former clerk of Peter Osterhout, Sr., erected the brick store at present occupied by Jacob Slingerland, and for many years was engaged in the mercantile business.

Mr. Olaf K. Williams, was the son of Eben Williams, a Revolutionary patriot, who held a captain's commission through that war, and proved a useful and staunch soldier, participating in many of the most important battles fought during that eventful period.

Opposite, J. G. Caryl, son-in-law of Samuel Smith, also established a trade in the same line of goods. These two men, of energy and integrity, possessed the confidence of the farming community to an unparalleled extent. Williams

passed away on the 13th of October, 1872, "white with the frost of years.

Near by stands an ancient mill that was erected by Hendrick Strubach, grand-son of the first settler bearing that name, nearly eighty years ago, and was the first mill on the stream that used bolting cloths.

Near the mill for several years the manufacturing of agricultural machinery, was carried on by G. Westinghouse, and at a later date by S. K. Campbell, who removed the works to the Central Bridge station, a small hamlet to which the railroad gave birth upon its completion to the place in 1864.

But very few manufacturing establishments have been erected in the town of Schoharie, considering the wealth of the people and great demand for every article that can be conceived.

The village at the depot, or "New Central Bridge," through the energy of its inhabitants, bids fair to compare favorably with any of its sister towns as a central mart and manufacturing point.

One of the pioneer business men was John J. Rowe, a merchant, who was followed by A. M. Becker, John M. Mead, and John Stever. A. L. Fisher followed Jacob Burbanks in the hardware business, and for many years has added materially to the business of the place, and convenience of the community.

A short time after the Revolution a mill was built upon Fox's creek, a few rods above the iron bridge, against the bank opposite the road leading to Central Bridge, where once stood the first grist-mill built in the County soon after the settlement of Fox's dorf. Henry Lawyer at a late date repaired the mill, but the dam of Colonel Vroman's mill flooded the waterwheel, and the mill proved a failure.

About the year 1806, two Yankees by the name of Chase and Davis, came and put a machine in the old mill for carding wool. We believe it to have been the first one in the County, and although it worked slow, it was considered a great improvement upon the old mode of "hand-carding." They carded two hundred pounds of wool in twenty-four hours, and were obliged to work night and day to do

the business. Being a successful and paying machine, in a few years many were built which produced a competition and caused small profits. One was erected upon the Waterbury place in 1811 or 1812, by Stephen Lawrence, but was changed to an oil mill, and did a thriving business for a few years.

A distillery was in operation by Smith Young in 1827, on the Peter Mann farm, and after burning was again started on the Waterbury road. According to the ratio of inhabitants it is thought that there was more liquor consumed in the County sixty and seventy-five years ago than now.

Peter Mann erected a building for a tannery, which was used as such for several years, but was purchased by a firm from New York—Korn & Barre—who established a silk factory within it. The old building was burned and the present stone building erected in its stead, and for reasons best known to the firm the factory ceased operations. Ephraim Mann finally purchased the property and placed a provender and planing-mill within the wall, whose humble rumblings and clatterings seem to laugh at former pretentious enterprises.

In 1859 a stock company was formed, with a capital of \$200,000, to manufacture wagon hubs and felloes, and in the fall of that year a building was erected near the cemetery for that purpose, and equipped with an engine and all necessary machinery.

It was run successfully until the 16th of October, 1865, when the establishment burned at a total loss of sixty thousand dollars. It was rebuilt by the company, but soon purchased by ex-Sheriff Durand. It was again burned in 1877, entailing a loss of fifteen thousand dollars upon the owner. The vast amount of hubs sent to all parts of the United States and Canada, and the increasing demand for them, was beyond the expectation of the owners. The timber used was mostly elm, in which the County abounds, and it being nearly worthless for other purposes, the factory proved a grand enterprise to the farmers.

An agricultural and machine shop was built near the railroad station, soon after the com-

pletion of the road, which employed many laborers for several years, but at present the building stands idle, waiting for some enterprising capitalist to bid the hammer make its stroke.

The wagon and carriage factories of this place have proved successful. The present one of R. N. Stafford & Settle was long occupied by William Winter, whose reputation for reliable work was known far and wide, and many vehicles of his manufacture, of thirty years' usage, still defy our rough roads, and we imagine make merry over the struggling weak-kneed apologies for wagons of the present day, that are made like Hodge's razors, "to sell."

Mr. Winter came to Schoharie as a mechanic in 1842, and formed a partnership with Van Camp for the manufacture of wagons and sleighs. He commenced business where the fire engine house now stands, and afterward occupied the present "carriage building." John Feeck carried on the business prior to Winter's advent for several years, but who preceded him we are unable to learn. Winter and R. N. Stafford carried on the business together for the last years of Mr. Winter's interest in the trade. While engaged by the State upon the canal, he died suddenly at Yatesville, on the 26th of August, 1876, aged fifty-nine.

After the publication of the foregoing in the *Schoharie Republican*, an anonymous writer communicated the following in regard to "Schoharie wagon makers:"—

"Peter L. Feeck, a brother of John Feeck and also a brother of Jacob J. Feeck who recently died in the town of Fulton, carried on the manufacture of carriages with a partner. Peter L. Feeck married a daughter of Jabez Throop.

"Austin Knowles preceded all the carriage makers of Schoharie who have done business within the recollection of the writer. About the year 1835 or 1836 he closed up his affairs in Schoharie and engaged in the same business in Philadelphia with his brother Lyman Knowles. He took with him a large number of unsold and unfinished carriages, which were sent to Catskill and shipped thence by water to Philadelphia.

"Zeb Smith was another wagon maker. His

son, Amos, succeeded him, though this is not positively stated. Their shop, afterwards occupied by Peter Lemoge, a Canadian Frenchman and cabinet maker, was long ago demolished. It stood in the vicinity of the Gardiner barns.

"The two Wilbers made fine carriages for some years in the shops adjoining those of Winter & Stafford. One Champion and a Mr. Pearl engaged in wagon making opposite the Lutheran church. They were there before and after 1857.

"And who, if he knew him, can forget Peter A. Rickard at the junction of the old Waterbury lane with the main road not far from the Old Stone Fort. Peter could make a wagon or a wheel-barrow, a hay rigging or a coffin, but if he heard of a fish lying in Fox's creek waiting for a net or the torch and spear, the customers would also need to wait outside of Peter's closed doors."

We cannot pass another firm that has been perhaps more successful than any firm at the place, and in passing the many cemeteries through the County whose marble shafts so boldly admonish us of our uncertainty of life, our minds cannot but be riveted to the old established firm of H. R. & Z. J. Brown. They came to Schoharie County from Catskill, Greene county, and settled in Punchkill in the fall of 1845. After fourteen months' residence there they removed to Schoharie village, and have continued the business since, which has assumed greater proportions than any other of the character in this portion of the State.

In the *True American* of 1810, we find Thomas Penfield advertises "saddles, harness cap and holster making"; also Nicholas Feeck that he had commenced the business of "Tayloring," and wishes all to patronize him, and Benjamin Miles comes out with a short notice that he keeps "leather and groceries." Jabez W. Throop gives a list of goods for which cash and barter will be taken in exchange. "Ashes are wanted."

These were the only "business men" of the place at that time, as we find no others advertise. Without doubt the village contained but few houses directly around the Court House, but they were scattered along the line of road

from Martin L. Schaeffer's to the Stone Church. Near the latter gentleman's dwelling stands the old family residence of Revolutionary times, that was spared from the torch by the pretensions to loyalty of a negress slave.

At the invasion of Johnson and Brant the people of this neighborhood had ample time to remove to the lower fort for safety, as the alarm gun from the upper and middle forts had been heard, besides scouts were going and coming, giving the location of the enemy at all times through the day. Mr. Hendricus Schaeffer was at the lower fort, and when the invaders divided their forces to approach the fort from the east and west sides, Mr. Schaeffer and two others, William Enders and John Kneiskern wheeled a small field-piece from the southeast block-house to the knoll where Smith Young's residence stands, and fired upon the force that was coming in that direction. They fired but once however, when Schaeffer's companions fled from the fort, leaving him to haul the gun alone or leave it. They were ordered to return, which they did, but through a shower of bullets which passed them without harm. When the force passed the Schaeffer residence the main portion was near the river, and small squads entered the houses and did the mischief.

The owner of the Schaeffer house was Christian, the son of the original settler—Hendrick. He had been a cripple for several years and refused to leave home and seek the fort for safety. When the squad of Indians and Tories entered the building, a negress slave assumed a loyal air, and verified it by strong language, and placed a goodly supply of pies and other eatables within sight, which tempted their appetites and they left the house without doing any damage. It was supposed the members of this clan were strangers to the family, and finding them at home, while true patriots were in the fort, beside through sympathy to Mr. Schaeffer in his infirmities, were the reasons the house was spared. It still stands in a good state of preservation, and is something of a curiosity. The beams are hewn smooth, and the braces are cased in a curve, with oak. A groove is cut in the posts in which split slats are placed to plaster upon, which saved the expense of nails and sawing lumber for lathing.

Mr. Schaeffer not having any heirs, adopted his only brother's (Jacob) son, Hendricus, who was at this time at the fort as before mentioned. In the possession of Mr. Martin L. Schaeffer are several relics, among which is an oil painting of Hendricus and his wife; also the weathercock that was perched upon the steeple of the old stone Lutheran church of 1750. It is made of beaten iron, of the thickness of very heavy sheet, and displays good workmanship. Undoubtedly Johannes Lawyer, the first deacon of the church, suggested the idea of placing a "Rooster" upon the spire, as we find he was very partial to those bipeds, requiring each of his tenants to give him a pair of chickens yearly, beside the stipulated rents. These interesting relics lure us back to olden times, and awaken a lively curiosity to seek further through such interstices in the hazy past, for more mementoes, more facts.

Near the time that Hendrick settled here, his brother, Johannes, also built a house, near the present location of the brick house upon the opposite side of the road. We cannot say why Johannes was not mentioned when the lands were first mapped, but he was, without doubt, as early a settler as his brother. During the war the house was burned, while the family was absent, supposed by the enemy to be in the fort, where they really were.

Before leaving these two families to follow the footsteps of the invaders, we will open the records, and trace their genealogy down to the present time, fearful that those yellow leaves may lose the impress that dimly marks their names, and those that wish to learn of them will search in vain. Hendrick had two sons and eight daughters. The sons were Jacob, who settled at Breakabeen, and Christian the cripple. Jacob had but two sons, that we know of—Marcus and Hendricus. Hendricus settled, as has been seen, with Christian, and had but one son, Christian H., the father of the present Gideon, Martin, Luther and Jacob H. His only daughter married the late Nicholas Russell, of Cobleskill. Christian H. married the daughter of Peter Schaeffer, of Cobleskill, who passed his last days at this place. Johannes, the brother, was succeeded by his son, Martinus, whose son Marcus occupied the old homestead

when burned, and was at the fort. David was the son of Marcus and the father of the present Marcus and Henry living near. Thus we find the last ones mentioned in line of the two families are the fifth generation.

The invaders passing down, laid the houses in ashes, with the exception of the stone house of Johannes Lawyer, who had removed to a building near the fort for safety, and a wooden structure occupied by John I. Lawyer as an inn, also the old parsonage and Lutheran Church, which, tradition says, were spared by order of Johnson and Brant. Simms was informed that the house of John I. Lawyer was burned the night following. We do not believe that the enemy returned, as it would have been too hazardous to have done so. The night was passed by the patriots at the lower fort, in conjunction with the forts above, in making preparation to follow and skirmish with the rear of the army the next day, beside keeping a vigilant eye upon the enemy's encampment. If a scout had been sent out to finish the work of destruction, they could not have gone far before meeting their doom, as Christian Strubach with his trusty followers were on their watch. The building might have been burned by a flying spark from the ruins of Ingold's dwelling, but more likely by the brands of the Colonists, whose opinion of Lawyer's loyalty was not very complimentary. There were several houses near the fort which escaped the Mohawk's torch, as they were too near the muzzle of the patriots' unerring rifles and the little six-pounder that was wheeled out to salute their coming. Captain Mann's mansion across Fox's creek was also spared, beside one occupied by a man named William Dietz, down the valley near where the late Peter Snyder's residence stands. Mrs. Dietz had just finished milking and was entering the door when she saw a few Indians approaching. Setting the pail down in the door-way she sought safety back of the house, while the savages' thirst for blood and plunder was pacified by the pail of milk, and they passed on to "Kneiskern's dorf."

The old grist-mill that was built by Johannes Eckerson about 1760, stood between the old house and the creek, and was set on fire, but making little progress before the enemy dis-

appeared, it was soon extinguished, and stood for many years after, and was owned by Colonel Peter Vroman, who settled here at the close of the war. Thomas Eckerson, son of Johannes, was the miller at that time, and he with his wife had just returned on foot from Schenectady as the enemy set fire to the mill. Upon his entering the building, an Indian raised his rifle and fired upon him, when a Tory of the neighborhood standing near, threw up the muzzle of the gun, and the charge went over him. As he struck the gun, he exclaimed, "If you shoot him we can't get any more flour!" The old mill stood for many long years, and was replaced by the present one, by Jacob Fisher, and long owned by John Griggs, who was followed by the present owner, Samuel Stevens.

Within the hamlet of Brunnen dorf lived John Ingold, who first settled near Weiser's dorf, and removed to this place about the year 1740. His house was burned by Johnson's forces in 1780, but he rebuilt after the war closed, and those buildings were used for holding the first courts in the County. The records say, "at the house of John Ingold," while tradition says, "in the wagon-house of John Ingold," which building is still standing, and in which the legal talent of such men as Tiffany, Gebhard, Van Veghten, Cady, and a host of others was displayed, and which were noble examples of industrious workers, deep and active abilities and honorable aspirations.

Johannes Ingold, Jr., succeeded his father, and was the first Coroner in the County. He represented the County in the Legislature in 1808, 1809 and 1810, with John Rice of Sharon. He was also Supervisor of the town ten terms, 1797 to 1800 and in 1803, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810 and 1811, besides holding several other local offices, in which he displayed that honesty for which he was noted. He was much respected by all who knew him, and passed away at an advanced age.

The family name we believe to be extinct in the valley, except upon the tombstones that bear

"The name, the year, the day."

After the invasion, buildings were slowly erected for the security of crops, but no residences were built until after peace was pro-

claimed in 1783, and then only upon the sites of the burned houses.

When the Court House was built in 1800 more order in the location of the buildings was observed, and one of the first marks of improvement that accompanied the Court House, was the building erected by John Bouck, and long occupied by John Gebhard, Jr. It was a first-class country residence of that day. Within it was a tile fireplace, that now graces the Frey mansion near Canajoharie, and which was purchased in Albany at a great cost, and was the only one of the kind in this part of the country.

Within the walls of this old house assembled the refined of the place, to enjoy the hospitality of the highly respected host.

The observing can plainly note by the different style of buildings, at what period they were erected, and mark the improvement in architecture as well as convenience and comfort in their construction. The one alluded to was considered a fine residence in its day. But in strolling up the street, observing the modern additions placed upon some of the buildings of equal age, and especially in viewing the spacious residence of James O. Williams, we can but be struck with the development of architectural art.

The appearance the present Court House presents, no doubt is in as great contrast to the one built in 1800, as the buildings we have mentioned. It was a three story stone building, covering less ground than the present one, with a belfry rising from the center of the roof, with but little ornamental work upon it. The jail was in the third story, in which some time in the year 1845, a man by the name of Burton was confined for grand larceny. He made an attempt to escape by burning the lock from the wooden door. The wood being very dry, the fire was soon beyond the control of the prisoner, and ascended to the attic and cupola. The incendiary gave an alarm and was with difficulty rescued. Another building was erected the same and following year, of more pretentious appearance. It was built of stone and consisted of the Court, Supervisors' and Sheriff's rooms and office. The jail which is still standing, was built in the rear, and though a small structure it is sufficient for the purpose for which it was

intended, and is frequently destitute of occupants.

The village was very fortunate in having no conflagrations up to the year 1868, when a most destructive fire occurred, which threatened annihilation of the ancient "dorp." Our esteemed friend Squire John Gebhard thus alludes to the burning:—

"On the 18th of July, 1868, the largest and most destructive fire the village ever witnessed occurred. It was of an incendiary origin. The hay in the barn belonging to Francisco Wood & Son's hotel, about the middle of the night, had been set on fire, and when first discovered the flames were bursting out of the roof. The brick hotel of Mr. Wood was greatly injured, a portion of the roof being burnt off. From the hotel the fire extended north, to Badgley's brick store, which was also materially damaged. From thence the fire extended to the large three story frame building adjoining, occupied by several tenants. The third story of the building was occupied by A. A. Hunt, editor and proprietor of *The Schoharie Republican*, and all the type, presses, plates, etc., belonging to the office, and the bound files of the paper since 1819, together with the building, were totally destroyed. The next building, the 'Arcade,' a wooden structure, was also burned, and the adjoining one occupied by Alexander Rickard. The progress of the fire in this direction was finally arrested at O. B. Throop's fire-proof drug store. To the south of the hotel the flames burned the roof of the "Schoharie County Bank," then entered the brick store and dwelling of Hiram Benedict, which were destroyed. Next the roof of the fire-proof store now occupied by Jacob T. Miers was burned. From thence, the flames extended to the store now occupied by Henry A. Brown, which was also materially injured. The fire in this direction was stopped at the brick residence of the late Peter Osterhout, Sr., but his storehouse and barns were consumed. All the out-houses, barns and skeds in the rear of the burnt buildings were destroyed. A man by the name of Jacob Lagrange was suspected as the incendiary. He was arrested during the fire and made a full confession of his guilt, and was tried for the offence and convicted on his con-

fession and sentenced to the States Prison for the term of eight years."

Squire Gebhard also adds:—

"A destructive fire occurred in the village on the 17th day of January, 1870. At mid-day the hay in the barn belonging to the 'Eagle Hotel' (kept by William Parrott, Jr.) now the Parrott House, was discovered to be on fire. The barn and carriage house attached were one hundred feet in length, and the quantity of hay in the barn and the advanced state of the flames when first discovered, rendered any attempt to extinguish them wholly futile. The 'Eagle' fronted on Main street and the south side of the hotel faced and adjoined the Court House lot. It was a frame building, extending one hundred feet on Main street and was but a short distance west of the barns in the rear. The wind blowing from the east, at once drove the flames from the barn to the house, and in a short time it was completely consumed. The flames reached the Court House, and soon laid the wood work in ashes. To the north of the hotel, the tin and hardware store and residence of Warren S. Gates, both frame buildings, were destroyed. The cause of the fire has not been ascertained."

The County being again destitute of a Court House, steps were at once taken for rebuilding. The citizens of Cobleskill village petitioned to the Board of Supervisors to erect it at that place, and as an inducement offered to give the location and at last, to bear the expense of building without cost to the County. Schoharie, awakened, made a like offer to retain the county-seat, to which the Board acquiesced. But through some technicality, the County contributed to its erection, which occurred in 1870. It is a blue limestone structure, three stories in height and considered fire-proof, the cornices, dome and pinnacles being galvanized iron. The first story comprises the Surrogate's and County Clerk's offices, and a large kitchen where cooking is done for the prisoners; while upon the second floor large apartments for the sheriff's family, together with a Supervisor's room and Sheriff's office are conveniently arranged. The third floor comprises a spacious Court Room with gallery and petit-jury room. The former clerk's

office was a low stone building, and stood upon the north line of the Court House lot. The fire of 1868 seriously damaged the walls, but the records and other papers were uninjured, although they were but a few feet from the burning buildings that caused an intense heat.

Whether the people of the progressive "Fountain town" had a school before the school here was built, near the old parsonage, or not, we are unable to tell. A few, very few, of the present residents first began to solve the mysteries of "Daboll" and worry over "Webster's Speller and Definer" in the old building.

When its walls began to crumble, another was built near the present Lutheran church, but like its predecessor, time and truants accomplished the work of destruction, and it yielded upon the appearance of a more commodious one that still stands but a short distance off.

Schoharie Academy.—By an act of the Legislature, passed upon the 28th of April, 1837, Jacob Gebhard, William Mann, Charles Good-year, Peter Osterhout, Sr., Benjamin Pond, Peter S. Swart, William Dietz, Henry Shafer, Jacob Vrooman, and such other persons as may associate with them, were constituted a body corporate by the name of The Schoharie Academy, for the purpose of establishing, maintaining and conducting a Seminary of learning for the education of youths of both sexes. It was incorporated by the Regents, February 5, 1839, and has been a superior school from the commencement.

The course of study is as extensive at present as any similar institution in the State. The present faculty consists of:—

Solomon Sias, Principal.

Robert B. Handy, French, German and English branches.

Miss Emma K. Cramer, Intermediate or English branches,

Miss Hattie Morrison, Common English.

Miss Ida Mayham, Primary or Preparatory.

It is under the management of the following able "Board of Education":

Hon. S. L. Mayham, President.

M. N. DeNoyelles, Secretary.

J. O. Williams, Wm. S. Layman, M. D., Jacob T. Miers, J. W. Marsh.

The first "Regents Higher Academic Diploma" ever presented in the County was given on the 13th of June, 1881, to E. E. DeNoyelles, and the ninety-fourth in the entire State. The only three Regents Certificates ever awarded in the County were given also to scholars of this school, which bespeaks well for the faculty.

Methodist Episcopal Church.—Within the shadow of the spire of the ancient brick church stands another substantial structure dedicated to the worship of the same "Master" according to the theory of Wesley. Although the organization of this body is young in years, in comparison to the Reformed and Lutheran, yet its records show but few superior workers in the "vineyard." It was organized in 1840 under Rev. David Poor, preacher in charge, with twelve members. Rev. — VanAuken, then living here, became deeply interested in the organization, and under his labors the present house of worship was erected in 1842. The ministers in charge from that date up to 1852 we are unable to give, but from that date to the present time, they were as follows:—

William R. Brown, 1852–1854.
A. W. Garvin, 1854–1856.
Joseph Cape, 1856–1858.
A. Heath, 1858–1860.
I. C. Fenton, 1860–1863.
A. D. Heck, 1863–1867.
E. Taylor, 1867–1869.
E. Mott, 1869–1872.
Milton Tator, 1872.
A. Champlin, 1873.
W. B. Bedell, 1874.
A. W. Powers, 1874–1876.
L. A. Bigelow, 1876–1880.
J. G. Gooding, 1880 and present.

Barton Hill and Central Bridge are connected with this church in pastorate. The membership is one hundred and seventy-seven.

The following are the present officers:—

Stewards:—

M. N. DeNoyelles,
P. S. Clark,
G. D. Warner,
S. R. Wright,
Abram Becker,

John Stever,
George Terpenning,
Ira Blanchford,
G. Shank.

Trustees:—

M. N. DeNoyelles,
P. S. Clark,
S. W. Zeh,
W. M. Preston,
John Morrison,
George D. Warner,
T. D. Young.

Recording Steward:—

P. S. Clark.

African M. E. Church.—Of more humble pretensions, the small "African Methodist Episcopal Church" organized in 1856 by R. T. Eaton, closes the list of religious organizations in the village. The pastors who have officiated are as follows:—

Reverends Benjie, Bessler, Ray, Wales, Hammond, Tyler, Ely, Sanford, and the present Reverend Mr. Gibbs.

Referring to the Barton Hill Methodist Society, we are led to remark it was formed in 1824, and one of the leading men at its organization still continues one of its main supporters.

Theodore Barton, now at the age of eighty-five, was one of the pioneers of the elevation known as Barton Hill, and still possesses the activity of mind and body found in most men of fifty. He is the only one left of four brothers who came from Dutchess county in 1818 and purchased lands of the Keyzers, who were preceded a few years by Gideon Wilber and the Simmons family. By strict economy and industry Mr. Barton has accumulated a competency which, together with his religious character, ranks him with the foremost men of the town. He is the oldest Mason in the County. —

But a short distance from the Barton neighborhood is found the celebrated Gebhard's cavern, first explored by our venerable friend John Gebhard, Jr., Dr. Joel Foster and Mr. John S. Bonney in the fall of 1831. Among the many rich specimens obtained in this cave is one resembling alabaster. While we are led to think

it is but carbonate of lime and not sulphate, yet its beauty and close resemblance to the genuine, make it nearly as valuable and worthy of obtaining. The ingress to this cave is precipitous and somewhat hazardous, which but few visitors feel disposed to incur, yet the beautiful threadlike crystals, stalactites and stalagmites, aragonite and satin spar, found down in its depths, well repay the student for his venture.

Schoharie Bridge.—On the 26th of March, 1803, an act was passed by the Legislature to establish a lottery and appoint managers of the same, to raise \$41,500 "for opening and improving certain great roads in this State," and the sum of six hundred dollars was included for the building of the bridge over the Schoharie creek, opposite of Schoharie village. The money was "to be paid to the Commissioners of Highways of the town of Schoharie for that purpose." By an act passed March 8, 1805, John Dominick, Jr., John Becker, John Ingold, Jr., Peter Shafer, David Swart, Peter Swart, Jr., Jacob Lawyer, Jr., and Peter I. Shafer were created a body corporate to build the bridge and were called the "Schoharie and Cobleskill Bridge Company." The structure was finished in 1813. Near this bridge upon the farm of John Gebhard, during the Revolution, the patriots manufactured sulphur for making powder, and it was thought that other minerals, such as silver and copper existed there in great quantities, but little effort was made to unearthen them.

We have already mentioned the village was first called "Brunnen dorf" and afterwards "Fountain Town." At a later date it was frequently called "Sommerville," in honor of the first Lutheran pastor. It received its present appellation upon the building of the Court House.

The town was formed in 1788, as a part of Albany county, and comprised nearly the whole of the present territory of Schoharie County. In 1797, Middleburgh, Blenheim, Broome and Cobleskill were taken from it, and in 1846 Wright and Esperance. The first general election of town officers of which we have any record was held "upon the first Tuesday in April, 1797," and lasted three days. The voting was done by dropping the ballot in a hat and each

official voted for separately. The following ticket was elected:—

Supervisor—John Ingold, Jr.

Clerk—Henry Becker.

Assessors—Jacob Becker, Jacob Kneiskern, Peter Swart, Casper Crounse, Hendricus Schaeffer.

Commissioners of Highways—David Sternbergh, Peter Swart, John Enders.

Collector—William Mann.

Commissioners of Schools—George Tiffany, Jacob Gebhard and James Brown.

Overseers of Poor—Hendricus Schaeffer, Henry Weaver.

Poundmaster—Johannes I. Lawyer.

Constables—Richard Green, Jacob Smith, William Schoolcraft.

Fence Viewers—Marcus Shafer, Jacob Sidnick (Sidney), Peter Ball, Peter Enders.

At the town meeting in May, 1804, it was

Resolved, That every crow killed, six cents if Brought to the town Clark and the Town Clark cuts off the head and gives a certificate.

The earliest records of the town that are accessible, bear the date of 1789, when nearly the whole of the present County of Schoharie was in one district or town, belonging to Albany county. We find Marcus Bellinger was supervisor, and Johannes Dietz acting town clerk. A book was kept according to the statutes, in which was registered the births of illegitimate children, and the marks that each farmer placed upon their cattle, sheep and hogs, which was necessary, as they were turned in the forest during the summer months, and enabled each owner to identify his property without trouble. The illegitimate children were principally those of slaves, and in registering, both cattle and infants were mixed up promiscuously, as follows:—

"The mark of John Jost Werner is as follows to his neat cattle, sheep and swine to wit—A hole through the right ear & the left ear cropt

JOHN JOST WERNER.

Recorded the 28th day of March 1799

HENRY BECKER, Town Clark."

"SCHOHARIE, Nov. 9th, 1799.

"This is to certify that there is a child born on the Twenty-fourth day of September Last of A Negroe woman, a slave, her name is Felora & the child is a Male Child & named Jack or John, the woman now belonging to the subscriber

MARCUS BELLINGER of his wife CHRISTINA."

SCHOHARIE, March 12, 1796.

"The following is the mark of Tobias Swart of his horn cattle.—The ends of both ears Cut off and then slits cut in both ears allso.

"Recorded the 12th day of March as above written, TOBIAS SWART."

Following the above is:—

"Broke into my inclosure the first day of June 1800 a large Read ox with a white face and a white spot on his left fore sholder and also his left ear cut of and a slit in the left ear.

JACOB BECKER, JR."

In another book we find the following in regard to the school money:—

"We the subscribers forming a board of Supervisors for the city and county of Albany held by adjournment at the City hall of the said city Do hereby certify, pursuant to an act of the legislature of the State of New York, entitled an act for the encouragement of Schools passed the 9th day of April 1795—that there is allotted by the said board the sum of one hundred and thirty pounds—eleven shillings and eight pence—farthing to the town of Schohary For the uses and purposes expressed in said act.

Given under our hands and Seals
this Seventh Day of July in the
year of our Lord One Thousand
seven hundred and ninety-five.

JAMES V. RANSELAER,
JACOB WACHSTRASON,
GARET ABEEL,
MARCUS BELLINGER,
JACOB WINNE,
NATH OGDEN,
LEONARD BROUKS,
PETER WEST,
ARIE LAGRANGE,
T. DUANE,
HYAL CORY."

The above sum was the last drawn from Albany county for the support of Schohary schools.

Much to the discredit of the several towns, the records of this town have been kept in much better taste and care than any other, and enable us to present the officials to date.

SUPERVISORS.

1767—Marcus Bellinger.
1768—Marcus Bellinger.
1769—Marcus Bellinger.
1770—Marcus Bellinger.
1771—Marcus Bellinger.
1772—Marcus Bellinger.
1773—Marcus Bellinger.
1774—Marcus Bellinger.
1775—Marcus Bellinger.
1776—Marcus Bellinger.
1777—Marcus Bellinger.
1778—Marcus Bellinger.
1779—Marcus Bellinger.
1780—Marcus Bellinger.
1781—Marcus Bellinger.
1782—Marcus Bellinger.
1783—Marcus Bellinger.
1784—Marcus Bellinger.
1785—Marcus Bellinger.
1786—Marcus Bellinger.
1787—Marcus Bellinger.
1788—Marcus Bellinger.
1789—Marcus Bellinger.
1790—Marcus Bellinger.
1791—Marcus Bellinger.
1792—Marcus Bellinger.
1793—Marcus Bellinger.
1794—Marcus Bellinger.
1795—Marcus Bellinger.
1796—Marcus Bellinger.
1797—John Ingold, Jr.
1798—John Ingold, Jr.
1799—John Ingold, Jr.
1800—John Ingold, Jr.
1801—Peter Swart.
1802—Henry Becker.
1803—John Ingold.
1804—Henry Becker.
1805—Henry Becker.
1806—Silas Tompson.
1807—John Ingold.

1808—Peter Swart.
 1809—Peter Swart.
 1810—Peter Swart.
 1811—Peter Swart.
 1812—William Dietz.
 1813—Peter Swart.
 1814—Henry Becker.
 1815—Gideon Wilber.
 1816—Peter W. Mann.
 1817—Peter W. Mann.
 1818—Peter W. Mann.
 1819—Peter W. Mann.
 1820—Henry W. Starin.
 1821—Joseph Hunting.
 1822—Joseph Hunting.
 1823—Jacob W. Mann.
 1824—Jacob W. Mann.
 1825—Jacob W. Mann.
 1826—John Swart.
 1827—John Swart.
 1828—John Swart.
 1829—John Swart.
 1830—Henry Hamilton.
 1831—Henry Hamilton.
 1832—Henry Hamilton.
 1833—Henry Hamilton.
 1834—Charles Goodyear.
 1835—Charles Goodyear.
 1836—Charles Goodyear.
 1837—John C. Wright.
 1838—Henry Hamilton.
 1839—John S. Brown.
 1840—John S. Brown.
 1841—John S. Brown.
 1842—Hiram Walden.
 1843—Hiram Walden.
 1844—Daniel Larkin.
 1845—Charles Knox.
 1846—John Griggs.
 1847—David Dietz.
 1848—Jacob Vroman.
 1849—Jacob Vroman.
 1850—Jacob Vroman.
 1851—Albiness Hess.
 1852—Albiness Hess.
 1853—Albiness Hess.
 1854—Albiness Hess.
 1855—Jonas Kilmer.
 1856—David Dietz.
 1857—Gideon Schaeffer.

1858—Treat Durand.
 1859—Ralph Brewster.
 1860—Elijah Lawyer.
 1861—Elijah Lawyer.
 1862—William Winter.
 1863—William Winter.
 1864—William Winter.
 1865—Peter S. Swart.
 1866—William Winter.
 1867—Elijah Lawyer.
 1868—James O. Williams.
 1869—James O. Williams.
 1870—Francisco Wood.
 1871—John W. Larkin.
 1872—John G. Caryl.
 1873—John G. Caryl.
 1874—John W. Larkin.
 1875—John W. Larkin.
 1876—William B. Murphy.
 1877—Ralph Brewster.
 1878—Ralph Brewster.
 1879—John W. Larkin.
 1880—Hiram Schoolcraft.
 1881—Jacob Rickard.
 1882—Hiram Schoolcraft.

TOWN CLERKS.

1789—Johannes Dietz.
 1790—Johannes Dietz.
 1791—Johannes Dietz.
 1792—Abram A. Becker.
 1793—Storm A. Becker.
 1794—Josias Swart.
 1795—Josias Swart.
 1796—Peter Borst.
 1797—Henry Becker.
 1798—Henry Becker.
 1799—Henry Becker.
 1800—Henry Lawyer.
 1801—Henry Lawyer.
 1802—Peter Vroman.
 1803—Peter Vroman.
 1804—William Dietz.
 1805—William Dietz.
 1806—Peter W. Mann.
 1807—Peter W. Mann.
 1808—Peter W. Mann.
 1809—Peter W. Mann.
 1810—Peter Vroman.
 1811—Philip Sternbergh.

1812—W. W. Enders.
 1813—Philip Dietz.
 1814—Peter W. Mann.
 1815—Peter W. Mann.
 1816—John Lawyer.
 1817—John Lawyer.
 1818—John Lawyer.
 1819—William Mann.
 1820—John Budd.
 1821—John W. Mann.
 1822—John W. Mann.
 1823—John Budd.
 1824—John Budd.
 1825—John Budd.
 1826—Peter S. Swart.
 1827—Peter S. Swart.
 1828—Peter S. Swart.
 1829—Peter S. Swart.
 1830—David Dietz.
 1831—David Dietz.
 1832—David Dietz.
 1833—David Dietz.
 1834—David Dietz.
 1835—Jeptha R. Simms.
 1836—Jeptha R. Simms.
 1837—Jeptha R. Simms.
 1838—Jacob G. Mann.
 1839—Jacob H. Smith.
 1840—Gideon W. Eaton.
 1841—Moses Young.
 1842—Moses Young.
 1843—James France.
 1844—Albiness Hess.
 1845—Amasa Gibbs.
 1846—Cornelius VanDyck.
 1847—S. P. Swart.
 1848—S. P. Swart.
 1849—S. P. Swart.
 1850—S. P. Swart.
 1851—S. P. Swart.
 1852—S. P. Swart.
 1853—S. P. Swart.
 1854—S. P. Swart.
 1855—Philip Deyo.
 1856—Sylvanus Sweet.
 1857—Loring Andrew.
 1858—S. P. Sweet.
 1859—S. P. Sweet.
 1860—James A. Bouck.
 1861—James A. Bouck.

1862—Julius Rowley.
 1863—Julius Rowley.
 1864—Julius Rowley.
 1865—Cornelius Bailey.
 1866—Cornelius Bailey.
 1867—William O. Root.
 1868—William O. Root.
 1869—John Sweet.
 1870—Philip Deyo.
 1871—John Sweet.
 1872—John Sweet.
 1873—Philip Deyo.
 1874—John Sweet.
 1875—Philip Deyo.
 1876—Philip Deyo.
 1877—Jacob E. Mann.
 1878—Jacob E. Mann.
 1879—Jacob E. Mann.
 1880—Jacob E. Mann.
 1881—Jacob E. Mann.
 1882—H. R. Brown.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Marcus Bellinger, 1794.
 Lawrence Schoolcraft, 1797.
 William Monger, 1797.
 Cornelius Seabury, 1797.
 Peter Swart, 1797.
 Ralph R. Phelps, 1799.
 Jacob Schoolcraft, 1800.
 Henry Becker, 1802.
 Silas Tompson, 1803.
 Abraham Sternbergh, 1804.
 David Ball, 1805.
 Harmonus Bouck, 1809.
 John G. Watson, 1809.
 Jabez W. Throop, 1811.
 Isaac Barber, 1815.
 Olney Briggs, 1817.
 Daniel Larkins, 1817 to 1828.
 Jeremiah D. Tompson, 1821.
 John I. Dominick, 1821 to 1825.
 John Lawyer, 1822 to 1827.
 Alexander Crookshanks, 1822.
 W. L. Candee, 1824.
 John Swart, 1828.
 Ezra Gallup,* 1828 to 1831.
 James Burnet, 1828 to 1831.

* The first elected on regular ticket.

Daniel Larkin, 1833.
 Olaff H. Williams, 1837.
 David Miles, 1838.
 John I. Dominick, 1839.
 Asahel Billings, 1840.
 Ezra Gallup, 1841.
 John Gebhard, Jr., 1842.
 Charles R. Gorden, 1843.
 James B. McMasters, 1846.
 Ralph Brewster, 1847.
 Ezra Nethaway, 1847.
 George Westonhouse, 1848.
 Elijah Dickinson, 1849.
 Jacob A. Crounse, 1850.
 Peter Mann, 1850.
 A. B. F. Pond, 1851.
 Peter Mix, (to fill vacancy) 1852 to 1853.
 Christopher Wetsel, 1852.
 Henry Wilsey, 1854.
 Joseph Williams, 1855.
 Ralph Brewster, (to fill vacancy) 1855.
 Daniel Larkin, (to fill vacancy) 1856.
 John Gebhard, 1857.
 Ralph Brewster, 1858.
 J. O. Williams, 1859 to 1863.
 Peter Nethaway, 1860 to 1864.
 John F. Shafer, 1861 to 1865.
 Ralph Brewster, 1862 to 1866.
 William B. Murphy, 1865 to 1869.
 Smith W. Haskins, (to fill vacancy) 1865.
 John D. Wilsey, 1866.

Peter A. Loucks, (short term) 1866.
 Smith W. Haskins, 1867.
 G. G. Mann, 1868.
 John F. Shafer, 1870.
 Jacob Enders, 1871 to 1874.
 William H. Barton, 1872 to 1880.
 M. L. F. Bachman, 1876 to 1880.
 Otis Guffin, 1879.
 Jesse W. Smith, 1880.

BOUNDARIES.

The original bounds only, are on file, and from them Esperance and Wright have been taken.

A final act passed April 12, 1813, for the division "of the counties of this State into towns," thus defines the town then formed:—

"And all that part of the County of Schoharie, beginning at a point in the west bounds of the county of Albany, two miles southerly of the place where Fox's creek intersects said west bounds, thence westerly to the place where Weaver's Stony creek originally emptied itself into the Schoharie creek, and thence westerly to the place where the Cobleskill road crosses the Punch Kill, thence with a straight line to a point in the north bounds of the county five miles westerly of Schoharie creek, thence along the bounds of the county easterly and southerly to the place of beginning, shall be and continue a town by the name of Schoharie."

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

HON. STEPHEN L. MAYHAM.

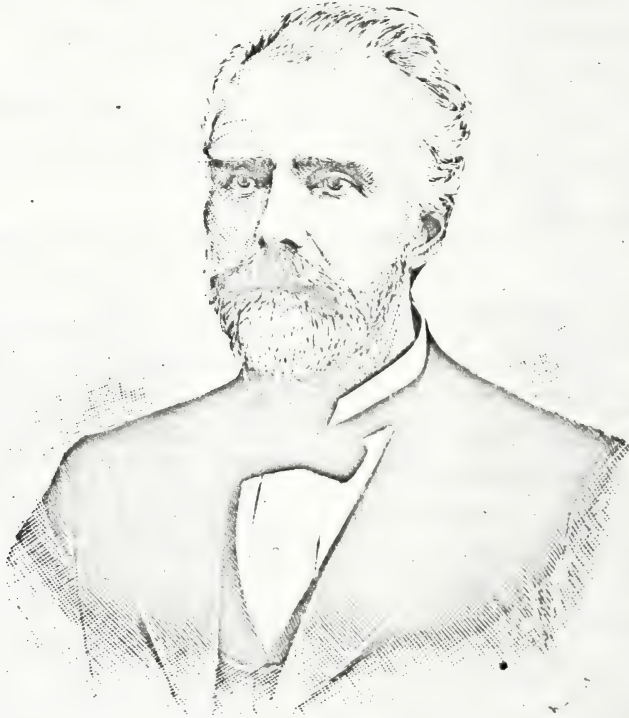
Stephen L. Mayham was born in the town of Blenheim on the 8th day of October, 1828. His father, John Mayham, was of Irish origin, his parents having emigrated to this country from Ireland and settled in Troy about 1790. His mother, whose maiden name was Betsey Ferguson, was of Scotch descent.

The subject of this sketch is the third son of

a family of thirteen children, and was reared upon a farm, where he was taught those lessons of industry which have made their impress upon his life and laid the foundation of the success that he has since achieved. His early education consisted of a term of two or three months in a district school, during the winter sessions, the balance of the year being devoted to farm

labor, together with one or two years of evening instruction by a competent person employed by his father as a family teacher in the home upon the farm.

When about eighteen years of age, he commenced teaching in a district school in the winter, and continued his labors upon the farm, in the summer, besides attending a select



S. L. Mayhew

school a short time in the autumn months. In that way he acquired a fair English education. At the age of twenty years, he entered the law office of Samuel W. Jackson, since a Justice of the Supreme Court, but then practicing law at Gilboa. After reading law one year in Mr. Jackson's office, he went to Ithaca, Tompkins county, and there entered the office of Love & Freer, where he remained until 1847, when he

was admitted to practice in all the courts of New York State.

After remaining another year in the office of his preceptors at Ithaca, he returned to his native County and located in the practice of his profession. Although remote from the county-seat, and in a community affording but a small amount of litigation, he soon succeeded in establishing a good country practice, and ac-

quired a favorable rank among the members of the Bar in the County.

Mr. Mayham was elected superintendent of schools two years, and supervisor of his town for three successive years, the last time without opposition. In 1859 he was elected District Attorney of Schoharie County for a term of three years, and so satisfactorily discharged the duties of that office, that without effort or solicitation on his part, he was elected as Member of the Assembly from his County, and entered upon the duties of that office January 1, 1863, his official term as District Attorney having expired December 31, 1862.

In 1866, he was nominated by the Democratic party for the Senate in the 15th Senatorial district, against Charles Stanford of Schenectady, by whom he was defeated. In 1868, he was elected in the 14th Congressional District, consisting of Albany and Schoharie counties, to the 41st United States Congress, during which session he served as one of the Committee of private land claims and the expenditures of the State and Postoffice department.

In 1878 Mr. Mayham was elected to the 45th Congress from the counties of Schoharie, Greene and Ulster, comprising the 13th district and served on the Committee for the District of Columbia, as Chairman sub-committee of Ways and Means, and on the Committee of Expenditures of the State department, etc.

He was also, at one time, President of the Schoharie Valley Railroad, and for the last eight years has been president of the board of education of the village of Schoharie, where he is now residing, and devoting his time to the practice of law, in partnership with his son.

Mr. Mayham was united in marriage with Julia Martin, a grand-daughter of General Freegift Patchin of Revolutionary fame, who was largely identified with incidents of that war in Schoharie County. To them were born seven children, four of whom are now living.



PETER S. SWART, M. D.

The subject of this brief memoir was a son of General Bartholomew Swart, of Schoharie, and was born July 15, 1801. His early life was spent upon his father's farm near the village of Schoharie, and he was educated at the village school.

About the year 1820 or 1822, he began reading medicine with Doctor Cornelius VanDyck, and subsequently read with Doctor March, of Albany. In 1824, he was graduated from the medical college of that city, and soon thereafter commenced the practice of medicine in Schoharie.

Dr. Swart was twice married; his first wife was Maria Snyder, of Schoharie, to whom he was married in 1824; and his second wife was Eva Eliza Michaels, with whom he was united in marriage in 1869. The latter was a daughter of the late William G. and Maria Lawyer Michaels. She is an intelligent and estimable lady, and is still residing in the village of Schoharie. Both of the Doctor's wives were great-grand-daughters of Johannes Lawyer, the first of

the family bearing that name, who came to America, from Durlech near the Rhine, in 1717.

Dr. Swart was also a descendant of Johannes Lawyer, his mother being a daughter of the great landholder of that name. The Doctor was County treasurer of Schoharie County for two successive terms, and also treasurer of the village of Schoharie, several times. In politics he was a Democrat. He was a member of the Reformed Church.

CHAPTER XXIII.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF COBLESKILL.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS—HISTORICAL INTEREST—ORIGIN OF COBLESKILL—TRADITIONS—FIRST SETTLEMENT—BROWN'S MILL AND STREAM—OMEN OF DANGER—DEVASTATION OF THE VALLEY AFTER THE BATTLE—FLIGHT OF THE SHAFER AND BROWN FAMILIES—COBLESKILL MILITIA—WHIPPING TORIES—BUILDING A FORT—INVASION BY INDIANS AND TORIES—TAKING PRISONERS—ESCAPE OF LAWRENCE LAWYER—FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE—LAMBERT LAWYER—JACOB L. LAWYER—MRS. J. L. LAWYER—COURTER MANSION—CHARLES COURTER—DEATH OF LAMBERT LAWYER—SALE OF THE HOUSE AND FARM—AUGUSTUS C. SMITH—HOTELS AND INNS—COMMERCIAL HOTEL—EARLY MERCHANTS—LUTHERAN CHURCH—REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH—METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH—ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH—OLD FAMILIES—MRS. BORST—THE SCHAEFFER OR SHAFER FAMILY—VAN DRESSER FARM—RICHTMYER FAMILY—CAPTAIN BROWN—HENRY SHAFER—BERNER SETTLEMENT—DOCTOR WERNER—BERNERVILLE—ITS BUSINESS INTEREST—

CARY'S MILL—KILMER SETTLEMENT—WETSEL FAMILY—BRAYMAN'S MILL—HOWE'S CAVE—PUNCHKILL—SCENERY ON THE ROAD WEST—MINERAL SPRINGS—PAUL SHANK—METHODIST CHURCH OF MINERAL SPRINGS—LAWYERSVILLE—FIRST SETTLERS—ANGLE FAMILY—YOUNG FAMILY—GENERAL DANA—HIS LIFE—JOHN REDINGTON—WILLIAM ELMANDORF—JARED GOODYEAR—ISAAC H. TIFFANY—THOMAS LAWYER—JEDEDIAH MILLER—DOCTOR SHEPHERD—SHUTTS FAMILY—THOMAS SMITH—HENRY SMITH—J. H. RAMSEY—WILLIAM H. YOUNG—CEMETERY—WAKEMAN FAMILY—REFORMED CHURCH—LUTHERAN CHURCH—EARLY MERCHANTS—PHYSICIANS—LEGAL FRATERNITY—PAST AND PRESENT—MANUFACTURING INTEREST—MASONIC SOCIETY—GOOD TEMPLARS—G. A. R. POST—NATIONAL BANK—FORMATION OF THE TOWN—FIRST OFFICERS—SUPERVISORS—EFFORTS TO REMOVE THE COURT HOUSE—BOUNDARIES.

THE town of Cobleskill possesses peculiar attractions, particularly to the Geologist and Historian. The greater part is underlaid with limestone, in which is detected the various changes that nature has made through countless ages, and presents fossiliferous strata that are well worthy the researches of the enquiring student.

The mighty changes nature has wrought through the far back centuries have left immense fissures in these rocks that are the wonder and admiration of the world.

Within their dark recesses are found the most beautiful stalactitical formations which the dripping waters of ages have slowly and tastefully arranged by percolation through the rock above, as well as other mineral deposits peculiar to such caverns, all of which are worthy the attention of the student, and have attracted such from all parts of the educated world.

The historical interest that clusters along the Cobleskill is deep and of such a nature as to excite one's sympathy and patriotism. Here was

a border settlement, during the struggle for liberty—of staunch patriots, whose valor and stability, under the most withering circumstances, have but few equals and no superiors. Along the valley, devastation and death, by the hand of ruthless Tories and Indians—rudely swept, and blighted the hopes and aspirations of many happy firesides—saturated the soil with patriots' blood, and laid the beautiful and prospering vale in waste!

Here, too, many scenes and incidents of other times occurred that are of interest, which we will from time to time notice as we unroll the scroll upon which the past has written with a truthful pen.

The name of the stream, town and village, at present is written *Cobleskill*. From what originated the word and its meaning is not definitely known.

Many traditionary tales are told by the oldest families and documents as to its origin, but the one that has been given credence, is from the late Judge Brown, as stated in his pamphlet history of Schoharie published in 1823.

He says:—

"So called after the name of a man who cleared a spot at the outlet under the pretence of building a mill thereon, but was never brought about, but by the Indians was called Ots-ga-vaw-ge."

Author Simms visited the Judge a short time before he died and was told by him "he had been there to mill." It is very doubtful to us that a mill was built where conjectured.

There was a small mill built by John Peter Kneiskern upon a rivulet, as we mentioned in the *Esperance* chapter, near William Shout's work kitchen about the year 1740, and it was in use up to the time of the Revolution, and was no doubt burned by Colonel Johnson and Brant, October 17, 1780. We think as memory carried the Judge back upon Mr. Simms' visit, he being very aged and somewhat in his dotage, the Kneiskern mill was the one he visited and that he was correct when he wrote his pamphlet history. The man that received the credit of building that mill, and others in the Schoharie district, was Jacob *Kobell*.

The Schaeffer tradition is to the effect that

the cows of the first settlers were pastured along the creek and one or more of each herd having a bell attached to the neck, for the purpose of finding them, led the settlers to give the stream the name of *Cow-bell Kill*—kill meaning creek.

Another family states that owing to the bed of the creek in many places being covered with round stone, it was called *Cobble Kill*. While the late John G. Young, whose ancestors came at an early day said "I was informed by my grandfather and other old settlers, that there lived an old Indian near the West Kill junction, whom the people called Cobus, and they gave his name to the stream." Turning now from tradition, we will glance over old documents that speak plainly and bear strongly towards Mr. Young's idea, and then leave our readers to draw their conclusions.

The oldest writing that we have had the pleasure of examining that alludes to the stream bears the date of 1728 and uses the creek as a boundary and calls it Cobus. A royal land grant now in the possession of Tiffany Lawyer, bearing date of 1753, also speaks of the stream as Cobus "or as the Indians call it Ots-ha-le-ga" and still at a later date when the boundaries of the town were described in 1801 by act of the Legislature, we read Cobuskil and the town receiving the name of Cobelskill. Thus we see the original name of the stream was Cobus kill while the town and village has borne the name of Cobels and Cobleskill. It was formerly thought that the West Kill was the main stream instead of being a tributary.

Johannes Schaeffer of Ulster county, purchased six hundred acres east of the present village, in 1749, and in the year following, his son John, and Peter his nephew, settled upon it. At the same time Jacob Borst settled upon the south side of the creek, opposite the Schaeffer brothers. John built a log house where Mrs. Peter Lawyer's fine residence now stands, and Peter built to the west, across the brook, near where Charles Hamilton now resides. Johannes Schaeffer was a large land holder as will be seen by many of the old titles, and whether he was a relative of the Schoharie Schaeffers or not we are unable to tell. In after years, they became connected by the daughter of Peter marrying

Christian H. Schaeffer, the father of the present Gideon, Martin L. Jacob H. and Mrs. Russell.

John was long known as Hans Schaeffer, and built the Mrs. Lawyer mansion for an inn, about the year 1815, and for many years was a respected "host."

The orthoepy of the family name is Schaeffer but that branch of the family found in and around Cobleskill have changed it to Shafer and Shaver.

In 1752 Jacob Borst and Johannes Lawyer, 2d, of Schoharie purchased the lands to the west of Schaeffer's and Borst's, upon which the village now stands and an addition was made to the settlement from Schoharie and Middleburgh--They were Lawrence Lawyer, son of Jacob Frederick Lawyer, 1st, John Bouck, George Ferster and John Frimire.

About the year 1765 Christian Brown, brother of the late Judge Brown, settled upon the farm now occupied by James Becker, and built a saw and grist-mill, which was the only one west of Schoharie creek.

It was a small affair as most of the mills were of that day in the border settlements, merely cracking the grain, leaving the flour and bran to be separated by the ingenious matron. A bolt was placed in the mill after the Revolution but being ignorant of conveyers to carry the grinding from the stone to the bolt, it was carried in a basket and fed from a hopper. Indian corn and wheat were the chief products of the soil, the former being used chiefly for subsistence from the fact that it was easily prepared.

Brown's Mill was placed nearly opposite Mr. Becker's residence upon the south side of the stream that issues from a fissure in the rock after following a hidden path for several miles.

Several streams in the town of Carlisle flow in the fissures, so abundantly found in the lime rock strata, and it is believed that all of them, with but one exception, unite in emerging at this place. The prominent feeder is a swampy pond lying to the west of Carlisle village, known as "Shank's Pond." The water enters a crevice in the rock upon the east bank, over which is placed a saw-mill, and runs beneath hills and valleys the distance of nearly two miles and appears above ground, upon the lands of William

Brown. Being utilized here again by another mill, it passes on one-fourth of a mile, and again seeks its underground course, to emerge as before stated at Becker's.

This may be called the main stream and is fed during the fall and spring months, by another swamp lying south of Carlisle village upon the farms of Henry I. Ottman and Jabob H. Kneiskern, known as the "Cranberry swamp." This underground tributary joins the one before mentioned, before it emerges at Brown's mill, as a succession of indentures may be traced upon the surface beneath which the water flows. Still another swamp upon the north side of "Owelus Sowlus" or Karker's mountain upon the lands of Adam Lawyer, during high water seasons is drained of its surplus by a similar fissure, and helps swell the volume that here bubbles up from the rock-bound cavern.

During the Revolution, the people of the valley were continually on the alert for Indian invasions, and kept scouts out along the border to watch for their appearance and the movements of the Tories, and when they were detected lurking around, the women and children were sent to the lower fort at Schoharie or the middle at Middleburgh, much depending upon the location of relatives, with whom they could visit. Household valuables were also removed there for safe keeping, if not buried beneath leaves or brush in the forest or secreted in hollow trees.

A family tradition says that Christian Brown returned to his farm, after removing his family to the lower fort, to thresh some grain, and while busily engaged a bird flew in and perched itself upon his shoulder. Thinking nothing of the affair he continued threshing and the same bird repeated the act again and again, as if warning him of an impending danger. Like all the sturdy Germans, Brown was imbued with superstitious omens and fears, and upon the bird's last appearance his fears were aroused, and upon reconnoitering through the chinks of the log barn, he saw a squad of Indians cautiously skulking along a brush fence, running at the edge of the woods along the side hill to the south. Being a Captain in the militia service his capture or scalp was a tempting trophy for the redskins to present to their king as a mark

of prowess and loyalty. The Captain slyly retreated and returned to the fort.

It was here the wedding took place, during the war, between Captain Brown's man and maid servant, while Brown and family were at the lower fort. The frequent invasions of the Indians required a company to be formed in the valley, of which Brown was Captain. They were held for duty regardless of any individual interest in agricultural or mechanical labors.

Protection was the watch-word, and from the battle fought by them in 1778 to the close of the struggle, they were kept in arms, and if upon foreign duty, others filled their places. It was at a time when the soldiers were quartered here that author Simms says a wedding was celebrated. Pork, beans, and sour-kROUT were the viands and undoubtedly the "marriage bells" rang as merrily as if all the extravagances of modern weddings were indulged in. The militia were the invited guests and it was a gala day for the weary and hunted yeomen whose lives were but seasons of hardships and privations.

The first hostile invasion in the valley was on the 1st day of June, 1778, under the command of the Mohawk chieftain, Brant. His force was estimated to number about four hundred Tories and Indians, but probably it did not number more than half of that. The Indians were principally the Aquago's of the Susquehanna, as blood-thirsty and revengeful a race as could be found.

The battle being fought in the present territory of Richmondville, we have there given a full account of the transaction, and shall refer now only to such incidents as occurred upon that day within the present limits of the town. After the retreat was made by the patriots, and while the enemy were engaged at the Warner house, a messenger was dispatched on horseback down the valley to apprise the inhabitants of their danger of being slain or captured. Lawrence Lawyer's house was the first from the west, and stood upon the south side of the stream between it and the present residence of Peter Tingué. Lawyer was in the engagement, and fled with the remaining militia to the fort, and on coming to his house found his family had been apprised of the defeat and had fled. Mrs. Lawyer was three days in the woods

secreted, not knowing the fate of her husband, or what to do with herself. She finally returned to her home, but found nothing left but ashes; house and out-buildings gone, and devastation on every hand. The dwelling of George Ferster, which stood where the Courter house now stands, that of John Bouck, John Schell, John King, Adam and Jacob Shafer, all within the immediate neighborhood, were but smoking ruins, and their occupants refugees in the cheerless forest. She, with others, broken-hearted, fled to the lower fort, and arrived there on the fourth day. Farther down the valley lived Henry Shafer, (the late Judge,) where his grandson, George Shafer, now resides, and the Borst family near by, also John and Peter Shafer, upon the opposite side of the creek.

For reasons unknown, the enemy did not move down to them, and they were the only buildings left standing from Zea's, above Warner's, to the school-house east of the village, except the latter, and a log house of Warner's.

Flight of the Shafer and Brown Families—*

The messenger apprised the women and children of Peter and John Shafer's families, who, in company with an aged German schoolmaster by the name of Paughoer, fled to Captain Brown's house, and taking Mrs. Brown and children with them, entered the forest to reach the fort. Without doubt, the messenger exaggerated the result of the conflict and the proximity of the savages. As these families were so frightened, they did not know which way to direct their course, although they had traveled over the ground many times. They became lost and lay beneath a hemlock tree over night.

The night being cold and the children timid a fire was built at a late hour and around it they knelt, while the teacher, with hushed voice, invoked the protection of the Friend of the troubled and helpless. As soon as daylight appeared, they started, and near noon arrived at "Sidney's" on the Schoharie creek and were taken by him in a lumber wagon to the fort, where they found their husbands and fathers, they having arrived the evening previous.

* From Mrs. John J. Borst, daughter of Jeremiah Brown.

Captain Brown and Henry Shafer (late Judge) were running together in the retreat, and were followed by a squad of Indians, that were anxious to obtain as valuable a prize as Captain Brown, whose scalp would bring eight, and body, alive, delivered at Niagara, twenty "current dollars of British money." As they were climbing over a brush fence Shafer was shot in the thigh, which paralyzed his limb so as to make it impossible for him to proceed. Brown turned to assist him, but the Indians being very near, Shafer told him "to run and not stop for him." The Captain bounded in the thicket and eluded his pursuers and reached the fort early in the evening, expecting Shafer to have been killed. As the Indians jumped over the fence they did so close by Shafer, and he said two of them looked him in the eye, but passed on to capture Brown, expecting, no doubt, to return and take his scalp.

The Judge, as he was familiarly known for many years after, was a rather tall, muscular man, with the nerve of a Spartan, and he crawled, rolled and tumbled along, to the thicket near, and secreted himself until danger passed.

J. R. Simms says of Shafer in his excellent "History of Schoharie and Border Wars:—

"He directed his steps toward Schoharie, and on the way, fell in with Peter Snyder, his brother-in-law. They traveled together nearly to Punchkill, when Shafer, too weak to proceed, concealed himself and requested his comrade to inform his friends at the fort where he might be found, desiring them to come after him. His fellow traveler went to the fort, but instead of doing the errand as desired by his wounded relative, he reported him dead. Shafer tarried beneath a shelving rock until Monday morning, when by great exertion, he arrived at the house of a friend in Kneiskern's dorf. As he was much exhausted, he was prudently fed gruel until he revived, when he was taken to the fort and cured of his wound."

The company that was formed in the valley early in the war was called the Cobleskill militia, and was not attached to the regiment of the Schoharie and Duanesburgh district as a company, yet each of the members were enrolled

upon that "muster roll," as will be seen by consulting Chapter III of this work. The most of the company belonged to the present territory of Cobleskill, and consisted of nearly thirty members. Only twenty of them, however, were engaged in the conflict of June 1st.

They were as follows:—

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Christian Brown, | Captain. |
| Jacob Borst, | Lieutenant. |
| Nicholas Warner, | Ensign. |
| George Warner, Jr., | Private. |
| John Frimire, | do |
| George Frimire, | do |
| Jacob Frimire, | do |
| John Shafer, | do |
| John Zea, | do |
| Leonard King, | do |
| Johannes Bouck, Jr., | do |
| John Schell, | do |
| Martinus Ferster, (Fester) | do |
| George Feister, | do |
| John Ferster, | do |
| Henry Shafer, | do |
| Lawrence Lawyer, | do |
| Jacob Shafer, | do |
| Peter Shafer, | do |
| William Snyder, | do |

Those that were killed in the engagement and at the Warner house were:—

John Zea,
Jacob Frimire,
Jacob Shafer,
John Ferster,
Martinus Ferster.

Leonard King, Peter and Henry Shafer were wounded, and according to author Simms "the whole number killed, including Captain Patrick and his men, was about twenty-two, five or six of his men were also wounded and two were made prisoners."

Having written the name of John Schell, we cannot pass on, but relate an incident in the life of the firm old patriot that has not been told in print.

After the close of the Revolution the old soldiers were venomous towards the Tories, and whenever an opportunity offered they handled them unmercifully.

While attending a horse-race at Lambert Lawyer's, two Tories from the "Rhinebeck settlement," whose record of brutality was bad, drank to excess and while under the influence of liquor boasted of some heinous crime during the war, and ended by hurrahing for King George.

Schell's ire was aroused, and procuring a rope and a "black snake" whip, he tied the two together, by their necks, and led them to the hitching post, and whipped their coats off their backs. Giving them a resting spell, he drove the pair through the streets, as cattle, taking particular pains to remind them of his presence by an occasional stroke. He filled their pockets with small stone and compelled them to rattle the same, and cry out, "King's money! King's money!" as an offset to the derisive act of filling the mangled soldiers' mouths with Continental money, at the Warner house! As night drew near, he hitched them again to the post and gave them another severe chastisement, and let them go, declaring to them if they ever boasted of their crimes again he would kill them. It seems singular that many of the old Tories often boasted of committing crimes in which there was no truth, at least, so far as their having any complicity in them, except the principle of assent.

Building of a Fort.—Nothing of any importance occurred in the valley after the battle, till the spring of 1781, except the building of houses and an occasional fright by the appearance of Tories and Indians in the neighborhoods that sympathized with them in the cause, as reported by the vigilant scouts.

The lower and middle forts being too small to accommodate the settlers of the surrounding country, many of the women and children were taken to the "Camps" upon the Hudson, where nearly all of them had relatives, with whom they could visit and be safe from the savage enemy; owing also to the distance the settlers of this section were compelled to travel daily, for protection, when invasions were threatened, beside, the hospitality of private families becoming wearied in quartering soldiers, the citizens applied to the committee of safety

for the building of a block-house at some point in the valley.

Captain DeBoise, of the regular service, being stationed at the lower fort, was ordered to superintend its structure, which was commenced in the spring of 1781, and finished before the harvest, by the aid of soldiers and citizens. It was built nearly opposite the residence of Charles Hamilton, and was of sufficient capacity to accommodate the settlers in itself, without their being compelled to build tents or huts within the pickets, as at Schoharie, for the comfort of those that resorted to it. Its shape and construction is not known, more than that a cupola or observatory was built, from which the valley could be seen for a long distance.

The house of Peter Shafer stood where Hamilton's now stands and was enclosed in the pickets. A moat surrounded the whole in which the water of the brook running near, was turned and from which the garrison was supplied. The brook was much larger than at the present time from the fact the one running through the western part of the village upon which Harder's shops are built, made a turn near the residence of Mathew Burhans and ran east past Virgil Kling's into the channel of the brook now seen. Lambert Lawyer changed the course of the stream when he first settled upon the Courter place, for mill purpose.

Here the militia were stationed and obtained their supplies from the people gratuitously and we may imagine lived upon the "fat of the land." The henroosts and granaries of the Tories of "Rhinebeck" were often visited by the soldiers in their scouting expeditions and their "donations" thankfully and most agreeably received. Nothing of a warlike character occurred here until the fall of 1781.

Invasion of 1781.—As has been intimated the Cobleskill militia and citizens that remained in Fort DeBoise obtained many of their supplies from the Tories of New Rhinebeck. They said in substance:—"If your party destroy our crops and other means of subsistence, we will live upon you."

After thus helping themselves to their productions the Tories became greatly incensed and concluded to follow the adage of "diamond

cut diamond" and devastate the valley; consequently in the latter part of September 1781 a party of Indians from the Mohawk appeared in the Karker neighborhood and were joined by a number of the Tories to carry out their designs.

The leader was from "New Rhinebeck" and full of vengeance as he had been stripped of his cattle by Willet and hunted by the Cobleskill scouts. They crept slyly to the valley unperceived and began the work of devastation in burning Lawrence Lawyer's, John Bouck's, George Ferster's and John King's house, that had been rudely rebuilt after the invasion of 1778. They passed down the valley and kept at too great distance from the fort to enable the few that were within it, to fire upon them with effect. They passed round to Judge Shafer's buildings, and applied the torch to the house, after plundering it of such goods as they could carry conveniently. They burned his log barn and stacks, and passed on to the Borst place below. That family was at the middle fort. The party here put up for the night, and held a pow-wow over their success. Mrs. Judge Shafer was in the fort, we are informed by Mrs. David Shank, a daughter, and saw the flames rising from her house. She went alone and extinguished them, but the barn and stacks were laid in ashes. As she was returning to the fort she said the burning of property up the valley was a sad and discouraging sight.

Abram Bouck, then a lad, was at home and was captured as he was starting to return to the fort. George Frimire and brother John were at Ferster's and in making an attempt to escape, George was killed and scalped—John it was thought was a willing prisoner as he had followed the invaders of Vroman's Land to Canada the previous year, but stoutly denied the charge. George Ferster was also taken and rudely dealt with.

Early the following morning the invaders burnt the Borst buildings that sheltered them through the night and retraced their steps up the valley. They burnt Judge Shafer's house and drove his few cattle along, together with others they could collect, in all about thirty head. Every building from Lawrence Lawyer's to the Borst place was burnt, except the fort and Peter Shafer's

(enclosed within the pickets) and Hans Shafer's, that stood where Mrs. Peter Lawyer's fine residence now stands.

Hans lost nothing. His reticence throughout the struggle after the battle of 1778 was considered suspicious, and caused the patriots to keep a watch over his movements.

The Ferster and Frimire families seemed to be the most unfortunate of any in the valley during the war. The former was stripped of all its male members, upon the capture of George the father, at this invasion, and the massacre of John and Martinus, the sons, in the conflict of 1778. John Frimire and his second son, Jacob, were killed in that memorable battle. One son fled to Canada with Zea as related in Chapter XVIII, while George and John were taken prisoners at this time. From those two families came the brightest examples of unselfish heroism and patriotic sacrifice that are to be found in the annals of our country.

The enemy passed up to the present village where the New Rhinebeck party separated from the Indians and skulked to their homes. That night they had a meeting at one of the clan's houses and two buxom Tory daughters enlivened the occasion by playing upon fifes, while the Tories themselves refreshed their weary bodies by drinking Ferster's potato whiskey.

There could not have been many men in the little fort at the time, as it seems if there had been, an effort would have been made to check the savages' progress.

Undoubtedly the men were off upon duty as scouts, or in the Schoharie valley assisting their brethren in their fall work. Our Tory informant says "they watched their chance and did good service." Thus it was as the white-capped cloud suddenly arises in a clear sky, changing sunlight to darkness and bringing hail and Nature's other destructives, so those monsters "watched their chance" and when all seemed quiet and secure, they pounced upon unprotected settlements, and with the torch laid them in ashes and bathed the ruins with brothers' blood.

Lawrence Lawyer was on his way from Schoharie the afternoon the buildings were burned, and when near the present hamlet of Punchkill, he came suddenly upon three Indians, who

were driving a few head of cattle, but they not seeing him, he crouched down by the side of a log and they passed on without noticing him, although they were within a few feet of him. Quite a number of cattle were driven from the valley by the invaders at this time.

Lawrence died in 1848, at the age of eighty-nine years and ten months.

First and Later School Houses.—While we are dwelling upon the incidents connected with this neighborhood, it may not be amiss to refer to the first school house in the town.

An old man whose head is silvered by the reflection of eighty-seven years, well spent, and whose father and mother learned to read and write High Dutch correctly within its rude walls, pointed out the little knoll upon the north side of the road, east of M. W. Hearn's residence, and east of the gate-way, near the willow tree, as the spot upon which the first school house was built. It was a log building, and for the want of a "creaking door," a large blanket was pinned up in winter, under which the pupils were forced to crawl in going in and out. A small hole was made upon the south side for a window, over which the teacher's cloak was hung to keep out the wind. A large hole in the roof allowed the smoke to escape from the fireplace and through which light was admitted to enable the scholars to study. The teacher was a Mr. Paughoer, to whom we referred in the flight of the Brown and Shafer families, and who taught as early as 1770. At the close of the war a frame building was erected upon the same spot, in which many of the oldest inhabitants, now living, well remember attending school. Two, buildings for that purpose have been erected and abandoned since, before the one at present in use was built; each exhibiting the degree of prosperity and pride the people possessed. The present one marks the progress of the day and the deep interest taken by the citizens of the village in the cause of education.

We have before us the report of J. H. Salisbury, Superintendent of Common Schools, made in 1845, in which he says, in referring to new school houses:—

"That of Cobleskill, (the third one built in the district) is a splendid building, reflecting credit upon the inhabitants of the district, and particularly upon Messrs. C. Courter, Thomas Smith, D. Lawyer, M. Swart and others, by whose voluntary subscriptions a sum sufficient was raised to rear it. It has two rooms, with a portico in front, and a beautiful cupola upon it, and for comfort, convenience and elegance, it is perhaps surpassed by few, if any, in the State."

Upon the building of the present one, the former was abandoned, and was used for many years as the *Index* printing office, and of late as Dean's Marble Works.

Upon the building of the railroad, the village gave promise of becoming a thrifty business center, and there was an influx of settlers, which required more commodious school rooms.

In 1867, the present brick structure was built, and the schools soon adopted a graded course, which has now become equal to any school in Central New York, having three departments—Primary, Intermediate and Academic—with an attendance of four hundred students.

The present Board of Education of the village is Charles H. Shaver, President; James W. Lawyer and Albert Baker, whose design is "to furnish to the youth a school equal to any of its kind in the State, and to afford to all who desire it, an opportunity to be fitted for college, for business, for teaching, and, above all, for the practical duties of life."

Additional Settlers.—Immediately after the Revolution closed, measures were taken to rebuild, and other settlers, principally from Schoharie and Middleburgh, made a choice of land near, and by the year 1800, the present limits of the town were entirely taken up, except those lands lying upon the precipitous hills, which were considered of little value. Prominent among the new settlers was Lambert Lawyer, a son of Johannes Lawyer, 2d, of Schoharie, who purchased in 1752 the land upon which the village stands. Lambert settled in the log house rebuilt by Ferster, and in which the latter kept an inn after he was released. The old house was built of logs, and stood where the court

house now stands. Lawyer built on a frame addition, and continued the business up to the year 1802, when the house was burnt. There being quite an amount of travel of families from the Eastern States, to Otsego and other western counties, beside a good local trade, he built the present house, which was the largest in this section. The building was erected the same year, (1802). The road ran upon the south of the house at that time. The house was for many years the town house, where the hardy yeomen met to transact official business, hold law-suits, etc.

Here it was voted as late as 1802, "That stocks be built at the expense of the town," which appears as if they had "unwary ones" in those "good old times," as now.

Among the town records we find that in 1820, "by a vote at Lambert Lawyer's, the paupers of the town of Cobleskill shall be sold at auction annually, on the first Tuesday in May, when the licenses will be granted to retailers of spirituous liquors."

Lambert growing old, and very wealthy, for those days, wished to retire from the business, so in 1815 he built a brick house where the Hotel Augustan now stands, into which he moved with his son David S., while another son, Jacob L., took possession of the inn, and continued the business many years. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, in Captain Kellogg's Company, and in November, 1828, was elected Sheriff of the County. He died July 30, 1850.

Mrs. Jacob L. Lawyer, is still living at the advanced age of eighty-five. She was a Driesbach, of Schoharie, and when she came to Cobleskill the first time, there were but few houses, and the surrounding farms were nearly covered with heavy timber. Her father came from Pennsylvania in company with Jabez Kromer, and after a short stay in Albany, they came to Schoharie. The former located at that village as a mechanic, and the latter settled in Cobleskill as a physician, in 1793, both being progenitors of the families now living in the County bearing those names.

Jacob L. Lawyer sold the property to John P. Bellinger, and Peter Van Patten, father of the late Abram Van Patten, continued the

hotel business to the year 1839, when Charles Courter purchased the property. Upon the building of the turnpike in 1810, the back of the house was made the front, and upon Mr. Courter purchasing the property he removed the horse-sheds, and upon the ground they occupied, he built a store, in which he kept a general assortment of merchandise up to the year 1864, when he sold his stock to Simeon Deyo, who was also in trade in the "Watson house," or present "Kilts Hotel." Mr. Deyo consolidated the two stores, and had the sole control of the trade in the village. Mr. Deyo was a practical business man, with a host of friends, and did as large a business here as he had done in Schoharie village, for eighteen years in succession. He closed his mercantile affairs in 1864, and purchased the "Mineral Springs," where we will again refer to him, in dwelling upon incidents and facts relating to that place.

Charles Courter* was born in the town of Schoharie on the 4th of June, 1808.

After the death of Lambert Lawyer, which occurred in 1832, David S. came in full possession of the brick house property, and in the course of a few years he sold the same to Marcus Sternbergh. It was kept as a hotel by him for a long series of years, when LeRoy Eldredge, of Sharon, purchased it, who in turn sold to A. C. Smith, in 1867. Perhaps it may be interesting to state that the property was sold by David S. Lawyer, for a trifle over six thousand dollars, while the consideration for the same between Smith and Eldredge was twenty-one thousand dollars, showing a gain of over fourteen thousand dollars, which must be placed to the credit of the railroad. Mr. Smith repaired the house at great expense, and made it as inviting to guests as any in the County.

Increase of business required another extension, and many conveniences within, but through a conflagration that originated in the hotel stables in 1873, the whole was laid in ashes, together with all the buildings to the east as far as School street. In the two years following Mr. Smith built the structure now standing as Hotel Augustan, upon the ground occupied by the old buildings.

* See steel portrait and biography at the close of this chapter.

It is a large three-story brick building, with well ventilated and spacious rooms, capable of accommodating one hundred guests without inconvenient compactness. To it, has flocked, each heated term, many from different cities, to enjoy its hospitality and the beautiful scenery surrounding it. Scarcely had Mr. Smith finished and furnished the building to his satisfaction, when he was stricken by disease. He died November 14, 1877, at the age of forty-nine.

Augustus C. Smith was a very genial and energetic business man. He conceived the rapid growth of the village would ensure safety in making the heavy expenditure of building such an edifice, and had he lived, undoubtedly by his enterprise and perseverance, he would have enjoyed the realization of his plans. He was a successful school teacher for a number of years, and was elected school commissioner over the western district in the autumn of 1856. Mr. Smith ever took a deep interest in the cause of education, and in entering upon the duties of the office, he threw his whole energies in the work and awakened an interest throughout the district, that caused the schools to advance from the lethargy in which they were found. He was re-elected as his term of office closed, and throughout his official career performed his duties with such faithfulness, as to ensure it was not as much for the emoluments of the office, he worked, as to meet the interest he felt in educational matters.

As we are dwelling upon hotels and hotel proprietors, perhaps we may with propriety refer to others that *were* in past days and then come down to others that are now existing in the village. In olden times an inn was considered as indispensable as the highway, as by the town records we find in 1800, and for many years following, nine persons were licensed to "keep an inn," in the town, and "who appear to be of good moral characters, and are of sufficient abilities, each to keep a publick Inn or Tavern, and that each of them has accommodations to entertain travelers."

Undoubtedly owing to the rush of business the board considered it "necessary for the accommodation of travelers that a tavern be kept at their several places of abode in the said town

of Cobleskill." The nine that received licenses were:—

Lambert Lawyer,
Peter Bouck,
William Snyder,
Nicholas Rouse,
Jacob Newton,
Nicholas Smith,
William Baker,
Caleb Lamb,
Lambert Shafer.

The town being much larger in area at that time than now, there were but four of the nine in the present territory — Lawyer, Bouck, Shafer and Rouse.

Peter Bouck kept where Martinus Swart now resides; Shafer upon the VanDresser farm. Rouse near Punchkill, and Lawyer as before shown.

Coming down to a later date (1810) Dr. Jabez Kromer opened his house (which stood where Kennedy's wagon shop now stands) as an inn. The building was burned about the year 1830, and the present wagon shop soon after erected. John Foland succeeded Kromer as host. He was father of the late John and present Peter Foland, whose reputation as landlords are too well known by the traveling public to need an introduction here. The house passed into several hands from time to time, and in its last days as a hotel was known as the "Nisbeth House."

In 1842 Abraham L. Lawyer purchased the building now known as the United States, and changed it from a store (for which it was intended,) to a hotel by building an addition.

Martin Watson, son-in-law of Lawyer, took possession and continued the business to the year 1852, when he removed to Albany and gave place to others. Since that date the house has been occupied as a store and hotel, Simeon Deyo being the last to occupy it as a store-house.

From 1864 to 1868 several different "landlords" held forth, but in the latter year Levi Kilts purchased the property and still remains the proprietor. During the present season the building has received an extensive addition which makes a great contrast from its appearance forty years ago, when it was a small store, and

the present time. Across the street from the United States Hotel stood for many years a long building with the gable towards the street, which from time to time was used for various purposes. Abram Van Patten rebuilt the house and for several years enjoyed a lucrative patronage. His genial countenance and unbounded hospitality drew a host of friends around him, who deeply regretted his untimely end.

Mr. Van Patten fell from a wagon at some distance from home and when found life was extinct. The house was managed by his family awhile, who was followed by — Benedict to the present year, when Jefferson Eldridge became the occupant, and remodeled the establishment in appearance and convenience.

Upon the completion of the railroad to this place, James Blodgett erected the present Commercial Hotel, near the station, as the Blodgett House, for the convenience and comfort of commercial travelers. The fall of 1866 found it completed under the management of the builder, who was followed by several different firms and of late by Morgan Lewis, son-in-law of A. C. Smith and former proprietor of the Hotel Augustan. The house has accommodations for one hundred guests. Besides the increasing patronage of the traveling public this house has become a favorite summer resort. The village being so pleasantly situated, in a fertile and interesting valley, free from malaria and accessible to all parts, many whose custom it has been to pass the heated term at the fashionable watering places, find it more beneficial to health to pass their summers here in quiet, and each season finds their numbers increased.

Early Merchants.—Who was the first merchant in the place, it is indeed hard to tell, but we are led to believe one Staats, who was here in 1790. Josias Kellogg was here as early as 1800, and was connected in after years with Curtis Thorp.

The Lawyer family were the most wealthy of any in the Schoharie settlements, and were engaged in nearly every enterprise in which money was to be made, and undoubtedly through them the first settlers were supplied with such goods as they required. The wants

of the settlers as we have before mentioned were few—the chief being rum and tobacco—aside from their wearing apparel and eatables, which they manufactured and grew themselves.

After Kellogg and Thorp came John Peter Bellinger. Upon the ground now occupied by the United States Hotel stood a building which was occupied as a store during the 20's, by Jacob Slingerland; the building was burned and rebuilt by Han Verry Bouck, and he or his brother engaged in the mercantile business in partnership with Jerome Kromer. Mr. Bellinger was in trade part of the time with Jonas Bouck. Charles Courter came in 1837, and formed a copartnership with Minard Harder, in 1855, and continued the connection until the spring of 1860, when the business reverted to Mr. Courter. During those years, Martin Watson, A. B. Larkin and J. M. Falkner, were engaged in trade, the latter two, after those dates.

Simeon Deyo being established in the "Watson house," purchased Charles Courter's goods and interest, and became the only merchant in the village for some time, as we before stated. There may have been other merchants of short residence here from time to time, of whom we have not made mention, but we have given the leading tradesmen up to the year 1862. Long years before the latter date, the chief station for trading was at Lawyersville, and still later, Bernerville. We will here state that the business portion of the village for many years was clustered around the present United States Hotel.

Alonzo Ferguson was the pioneer hardware merchant of the place, and commenced the business in 1851. He was followed by C. H. Shaver in 1854, who still is in trade.

Mr. Ferguson removed to Otsego county, and upon the commencement of the Rebellion, he enlisted and served through the war as Colonel of the 72d Regiment of Volunteers.

In 1879, he returned to the village, and again engaged in trade, having purchased the stock of goods of Charles Hamilton, who had been in the trade nearly two years. The three gentlemen alluded to are the only merchants ever engaged exclusively in the hardware trade in the village.

Morris Cohn removed from South Valley in 1864, and engaged the most extensively in the dry goods trade, and still remains as the largest dealer in the County. Jacob H. Diefendorf, also commenced at nearly the same time, and after a few years closed. In 1872, Martin Borst and Edgar S. Ryder, formed a co-partnership in the dry goods and clothing trade, and the firm became in 1878, Ryder & Ostrom, Borst having retired and George D. Ostrom succeeding him. The same year the firm again changed by the retirement of Ostrom, and connection of R. T. Lefevre, making the principals "Ryder & Lefevre."

The first general druggist of the town was ——— Howland, who commenced in 1865, and was succeeded by Jonas Dillenbeck, in 1867, who is still in business, having of late taken an associate, and the firm is known as Rowe & Dillenbeck. The conflagration of 1873 burnt Mr. Dillenbeck's large and well stocked establishment, but it was immediately rebuilt, and still retains the reputation of a first-class house, which was early won. Several other firms have "come and gone" since Mr. Dillenbeck embarked in the business, and at present but one other is in the trade. Hogan & Borst commenced in 1879, and still continue with the confidence of the public. Doctor Ezra Lawyer, in connection with his practice, was a favorite druggist for a few years up to 1879, when he retired from the business. To chronicle all the business men of the town, and the changes they have made from time to time, would be an endless task, and by not going over the whole field, we are confident we will not be accused of favoritism. We have only intended, in writing the foregoing necessarily brief sketch, to notice the pioneers in each branch, but in our retrospect, we find we have missed Henry Smith, who built and furnished with goods, the house standing near the old school house, and in which William T. Moak was clerk, in the years 1853 and 1854. The basement was occupied in 1865 by "Lon" Harder, as a grocery, which he removed to the building now occupied by the druggists Hogan & Borst. "Lon" built the store in 1867, and created quite an excitement by his prize "Tea Sales," in which he disposed of thousands of

pounds of tea, and brought together crowds of hundreds of people, to witness the distribution of the prizes.

James W. Lawyer was the pioneer in the exclusive grocery trade, and was followed by Alonzo Harder. Daniel J. Dow removed from Sharon Hollow, and engaged in that business, and since then, G. R. Culver, John J. Dickerson, and J. M. Dean, as Dickerson & Dean, who were succeeded by Decker & Wright, Martin D. Borst, and James Herrick, have established flattering trades, who, with D. J. Dow, make a specialty of crockery, in addition to groceries.

Lawrence Lawyer's House and Family.—When Lawrence Lawyer settled here, about the year 1770, he built a house near the creek a little to the north of Peter Tingué's present residence. The road ran south of Lambert Lawyer's to that house and from thence northwest to Adam Shaver's, now Madison Shaver's, and then west to William Snyder's inn, now occupied by Sylvester McDonald. Lawyer was twice burned out during the war, and in 1810 built a large mansion upon the hill west of the village. It was in after years occupied by his son, Abram L., who was followed by Nicholas Russell, and still later by Peter Coburn, in whose possession it was when burned.

Lawrence had two sons, John L. and Abram L. The former, father of the present James W. Lawyer, was killed by a log rolling upon him. Abram became a very useful and influential man. He represented the town in the board of Supervisors in 1823, 1824, 1825, and 1829, and was sent to the Legislature in 1830, and again in 1851. The years 1835, 1836, 1837, and 1838 found him in the State Senate, which position he filled with commendable efficiency, as repeated elections prove. He died at his residence on the fifteenth of December, 1853, at the age of sixty-two.

Mr. Lawyer married a daughter of Peter Bouck, and his daughter (Mrs. Harvey Watson, of Esperance,) is the only surviving member of the family.

Churches.—From the first settlement of the valley, in 1750 to 1764, the people were destitute of a house of worship. Peter N. Sommers, of the Lutheran Church of Schoharie, and

Dominie Schuyler, of the High Dutch Reformed, together with missionaries, occasionally performed divine services in houses and barns. When not thus provided, the people either walked to Schoharie or near the present Methodist Centre Church in Seward, where stood a rude log building in which meetings were held quite frequently. During the Revolution, they were careful in venturing upon the usual paths to Seward, as the settlers of that section were

principally Tories, in whom they had but little confidence.

After peace was proclaimed, the Rhinebeck Church was built by the combined efforts of the people of Dorlach, Rhinebeck and Cobleskill and both societies, Lutheran and Reformed, worshipped in the building up to the year 1800. The Lutherans of Cobleskill became dissatisfied with the management of the church property, and being able to erect a church of their own,



THE OLD BRICK (LUTHERAN) CHURCH.

they did so in 1794. An effort was made by them to obtain a division of the farm, but not being successful, the matter was dropped until 1808, when they obtained fifty acres as their portion. The building, for those days, was a fine one and, being of brick, it was known and referred to as the "Brick Church," for many years after, by the people of the surrounding country. The building became too small for the congregation and a new one was erected in the year 1868, at a cost, together with the furniture, of thirty-six thousand dollars, that will compare favorably with any in the country.

The old one was cleared away in 1869, and upon the ground occupied by it, and the old grave-yard, the brick block known as the "Russell Block," now stands. The store of Martin Borst occupied the old site. It is sacrilege to destroy every such relic of the past merely for the financial gain that is reaped out of the small plats upon which they were placed.

The founder of this organization was the Rev. F. H. Quitman, and in gleaning from the records we are enabled to give the following facts relating to the church, and in our labors were assisted materially by Mr. Archibald Kilmer,

whose interest, with others, became excited in behalf of the "old land mark."

In September, 1793, Lambert Lawyer gave to the organization one acre of ground for building purposes, and during the following winter and summer the edifice was erected. At what time the first meeting was held to organize the society as a separate church, we are unable to tell, but by consulting the New Rhinebeck papers should judge that part of the proceedings were performed in the early part of that month (September). We find Nicholas Warner and Henry Shafer (late Judge) were the first Wardens, and Lawrence Lawyer, Henry Shafer, David Bouck, Johannes Bouck, George Mann and Peter Shafer the first Trustees, while Henry Shafer acted as Clerk. From the books we find the organization spoken of as "The Lutheran Dutch Church, called 'Zion of Cobleskill.'"

The builders of the edifice were:—

Henry Shafer,
Adam Shafer,
Peter Shafer,
John Shafer,
David Bouck,
Lawrence Lawyer,
Lambert Lawyer,
George Warner,
Nicholas Warner,
David Zeh,
Peter Mann,
John Bouck,
George Warner,

all wealthy men, not only for that, but our own day, as farmers; and being situated in a rapidly growing community, the pulpit was supplied by the best preachers of the day.

As we have stated Rev. Frederick Quitman founded the church and was the first pastor from 1794 to 1800, and Anthony T. Braun (Brown) from 1800 to 1805, yet they were also preachers at Schoharie; Rev. Mr. Braun from 1791 to 1795, and Rev. Quitman from 1795 to 1799, when Rev. Mr. Braun again officiated from 1799 to 1805. Those two men followed in the footsteps of P. N. Sommers, and like him preached at Beaverwyck, Stone Arabia, Greenbush, and to scattering congregations within a

circuit of forty miles, but *unlike* him in doing the work double handed.

These men were succeeded by one of the noblest men that adorned the church, Augustus Wackerhager, who began his ministry at Schoharie and here in 1805 and ended them in 1816. He was the first President of the County Bible Society and on its semi-centennial anniversary at Schoharie in October, 1863, the Society voted him a Bible, as a mark of their honor and affection. Upon the receipt of the token, at Clermont, he wrote a touching letter of acknowledgement, that well deserves a place upon the minutes of that Society. Though four score years had passed over his venerable head, yet in that epistle the earnestness, energy and mental powers of the man could be at once seen and felt.

John Molther followed in 1816 and remained to the year 1819, when George A. Lintner came and officiated till the year 1834. At that date this organization became a separate parish under the pastorate of W. H. Watson, who remained until the year 1841, when James Lesler followed till 1844, and officiated also at Middleburgh. Rev. J. Fenner came that year and was succeeded in 1846 by A. L. Bridgman, who came only to fill a vacancy and was relieved by Rev. M. J. Stover, who remained till 1851, when S. Curtis came. The year 1855 brought P. A. Strobble, and 1858 Henry Keller, who is the only one of the long list of pastors that permanently settled in the village. His pastorate ended in 1861, and I. S. Porter followed him and remained till 1867, when A. P. Ludden filled his place to be relieved by C. P. Whitecar in 1873. Mr. Whitecar remained but one year and removed to Middleburgh where he labored till 1876. S. Stall followed Mr. Whitecar in 1874 and closed his pastoral duties here in 1877, when G. W. Hemperly, the present pastor, was called. One fact we will here state in connection with this church that is of deep interest in its history:—

Rev. Walter Gunn, the first missionary from the Evangelical Lutheran church of the United States to heathen lands, was a resident of Carlisle, and while but a young man was awakened to a deep sense of his duty to God and

man by the Holy Spirit, and but a short time after his conversion expressed a strong desire to enter the missionary field.

Being too poor to prepare himself for the work, he applied to the pastor of the Schoharie Lutheran church for advice in the matter, who could give but little encouragement, yet with that earnest resolution that characterized all of Dr. Lintner's works, the matter was brought before several members of the Hartwick Synod. Dr. Lintner in his memoir of Mr. Gunn says:—

"At the meeting of that body, at Cobleskill, in the year 1837, it so happened, or rather it was directed in the providence of God that several wives of clergymen belonging to the Synod accompanied their husbands to the meeting. During the session of the Synod Mrs. Nancy Schafer, wife of Colonel Schafer, of Cobleskill, invited the ministers' wives to spend an afternoon at her home. Here they met without any preconcerted arrangements and had a season of prayer, while their husbands were engaged in the deliberations of the Synod. The ladies present at this meeting were Mrs. Crounse, Mrs. Senderling, Mrs. Lintner and Mrs. Schafer. After prayer it was proposed to educate Mr. Gunn for a foreign missionary."

"Each pledged herself for a definite sum and agreed to work among the ladies of their respective neighborhoods and solicit their aid.

"This gave rise to the Female Association of Hartwick Synod for the Education of Foreign Missionaries. This meeting was the germ of the foreign missionary spirit, which went forth through the Hartwick Synod to other Synods and subsequently led to the establishment of our foreign mission."

Reformed Church.—There being several families located at and near the village that held to the Calvinistic doctrine, a building was erected in 1819 for public worship. The pulpit was supplied principally from the Reformed Church of Schoharie and Middleburgh. There never was a resident pastor connected with this church, and through some mismanagement or disagreement upon doctrines, the society was disorganized and the church property sold. The building at present is occupied by the post-

office, and James W. Lawyer's grocery. The last deacon of this church was the late Isaac Ottman.

Methodist Episcopal Church.—The early records of this church were not kept, but by the assistance of Mr. Minard Harder, we are enabled to give an accurate history of the same, as taken from papers relating to it in his possession. In the summer of 1853, meetings were held for the first time, in the residence of John Schermerhorn, by circuit preachers, and the year following the present edifice was built, and dedicated about the month of October of that year. The Sunday-school was held in the rear part of the present residence of William C. Ottman, in a room arranged by Josiah L. Hawes, for a select school. Elisha Watson was preacher in charge during 1853, and we find Charles M. Anderson was an assistant, and Truman Seymour, presiding elder. In 1854 Arunah Lyon was preacher, and Andrew Heath acted as colleague. During those two years this charge was in the Seward and Cobleskill circuit. In 1855 and 1857, it was in the Cobleskill circuit, which included Bernerville, Punchkill, Greenbush, Grovenor's Corners, Mineral Springs, Petersburg, Bramanville and Cobleskill, and consisted of eight classes.

In 1855 Andrew Heath was preacher, and Stillman B. Gough, associate.

In 1856 Joseph Conner was preacher, and Joseph Cope, son-in-law of David Shank, associate.

In 1857 the same clergymen were reappointed and served.

These were the last pastoral duties performed by Mr. Conner, as his health failed. He settled at Warnerville and died soon after with consumption.

In 1858 the circuit included Richmondville, and was called "The Cobleskill and Richmondville Circuit." During that year S. S. Ford was preacher in charge, with D. W. Gould, associate. The year 1859 was supplied by the same.

The pastors in 1861 were Alvin Robbins and William J. Sands; in 1862, A. Hall and F. T. Hanna; in 1863, A. D. Heaxt; and in 1864 and 1865, Aaron Hall.

In the latter year, Grovenor's Corners, Bernerville and Cobleskill were set off as a separate circuit.

In 1866, Abel Ford filled the pulpit, followed in 1866-1868, by D. W. Gates; in 1868-1871, by Homer L. Grant; in 1871-1873, by R. H. Robinson; in 1873-1876, by T. Dwight Walker; in 1876-1878, by W. H. L. Starks; in 1878-1879, by Milton Tater; and in 1879, by J. S. Bridgford, at the present time officiating. In 1867, Grovenor's Corners was taken from the circuit.

This church was made a "station" and separate from any other, with the exception of Bernerville, that was retained a few years after.

The present officers are:—

Trustees:—

Reuben Harder,
W. H. Hawes,
Elmer France,
George D. Harder,
Francis France.

Stewards:—

Minard Harder,
Louis Hess,
John VanVoriss,
George D. Harder,
Abram Gorden.

Leaders:—

M. S. Decker,
S. Wright,
C. P. Boarne,
C. H. Shaver,
Chester Barner.

The Sabbath school has 175 officers and teachers with Louis Hess as superintendent.

St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church.—This church was organized in 1870 by Rev. T. W. Reilly, with a membership of seventy-five. The edifice is a substantial brick structure, and was built the same year at a cost of eight thousand dollars.

The following pastors have officiated:—

Rev. T. W. Reilly,
Rev. — Muldoon,
Rev. E. Philips,
Rev. John Brosenen at present officiating and resident.

To return to the old families of the valley we find at the time of the Revolution they had increased in numbers, and in a few years, each had settled down to fill up the interstices between distant neighbors.

Jacob Borst the elder had passed away leaving Joseph, Jacob, Jr., and Yost in his stead. The former two, by their energy and faithfulness in the cause of liberty, enrolled their names upon Freedom's column as true and tried patriots. Jacob was employed chiefly as scout and braved many dangers from which others shrank. In the fall of 1780, he in company with others were taken prisoners at Moak's Hollow, and driven to Canada. He was harshly treated and held until the war closed, when he returned to his home, but was soon confined by consumption, which he contracted through exposure and soon after died. Joseph retained the old farm and his children were Peter, Christian, Henry, John J., and Maria, (Mrs. Abram Brown). They too, with the father, grew old and died, leaving a record however, of being worthy children of a worthy parent.

The widow of John J. Borst is still living at the advanced age of eighty-three, with all the vivacity of many at fifty. Mrs. Borst was a daughter of the late Jeremiah Brown, who was one of Captain Brown's children that fled with the school-master. Thus we find running through her veins, the true blood of Revolutionary patriotism, such as has caused volumes of brilliant pages to be written and to be admired through all coming time.

Yost or Christian was too young during the war to take a part. He was the grandfather of Josiah Borst, the present resident of the village.

Peter Schaeffer had but one child who, we before stated, married Christian Schaeffer of Schoharie.

John Schaeffer reared a large family of boys, and one daughter, she being Eva, the wife of Jeremiah Brown, and mother of the present Mrs. John J. Borst. John or Hans Schaeffer took out a license in 1804 as an innkeeper, which business he followed to his death, in conjunction with the farm. He was followed by his son Peter, who was long known as Colonel Peter, being honored with a commission in the State militia, under the old military law.

The oldest son, Henry, was located upon the farm now owned by John Wieting and built a small grist-mill upon the south side of the knoll east of the house. It was called the "Corn cracker" and many of the old citizens of the town well remember visiting the same. The second son, David, settled upon the farm, and built the large yellow house that was recently torn down, so long owned and occupied by William Walker.

Mr. Walker's firm opposition to bonding the town to aid in the construction of the Susquehanna railroad can but be fresh in the minds of the people of the town. He fought the project long and bravely but the bonds were given and caused as he predicted "trouble and anxiety." Mr. Walker removed from Grovener's Corners to this farm.

Lambert Shafer, another son settled upon the farm now owned by the Van Dresser Brothers. Here he kept an inn which was for many years a rendezvous for the neighboring farmers to indulge in horse racing. The race course was from the house, west to the turn of the road and upon it many of the wheat fed horses displayed their speed regardless of the day of the week or state of the weather. The present residence is the one then used and in which were witnessed many sports peculiar, we may say, only to those days. Here one Michael Haenig formerly a Hessian soldier and taken prisoner at Saratoga being rather full of "flip" and troublesome "nog" hurraled for King George, upon some occasion, when a lusty yeoman caught him up and threw him in the fire place swearing he should be burnt up. Peter, father of Milton Borst, being present, caught the poor fellow and dragged him out, but not soon enough to save him a severe scorching.

The farm was purchased by Abram and William Shutts two brothers who occupied it for many years and sold to John Van Dresser and is now successfully managed by his sons Jacob and Henry under the title of Van Dresser Brothers, Mr. Van Dresser having died in 1880.

Richtmyer Family.—Joining the Van Dresser farm is found one of Schoharie's oldest families and in whose veins, ran staunch, patriotic

blood. Conradt and William Richtmyer settled here in 1791—the latter upon the south, and the former upon the north side of the woods. The two brothers first located upon the west side of Karker mountain opposite of Joseph and Solomon D. Karker's—as blacksmiths soon after the Revolution, but not being successful they changed to this neighborhood where each grew old and died full of honor as exemplary citizens, conscientious christians and successful farmers. They were sons of Chris John Richtmyer, of Middleburgh, who was a spy through the war and comrade of the famous Tim Murphy.

Joining the Richtmyer's upon the south, where Bradley Wetsel now resides, Abram Bouck settled at the close of the Revolution. He was taken prisoner in the fall of 1781 but escaped and to the day of his death was venomous towards Indians and Tories. He carried one gun through the war and gave it at last to George Becker, of Carlisle, who christened the relic "Old Abr'm Bouck."

Mr. Bouck was a son of John Bouck who settled where Martinus Swart now resides. The old gentleman was succeeded on the place by another son Peter, who kept an inn in the commencement of the century. Peter married Maria Hynds who was taken by Adam Cryslar and a squad of seven Indians in Dorlach upon the 4th of July, 1780, as will be seen by consulting "Seward."

Abram Bouck lived to a good old age and by frugality and industry accumulated a fine property.

Captain Christian Brown died soon after the war closed. His children were Jeremiah, William, Christian, John Jost, Eva, (Mrs. David Barner) and Christina (Mrs. David Becker, of Fox's creek). They too have passed away as long years have intervened since they fled with their mother through the forest to escape the vengeance of an unprincipled foe.

Henry Shafer settled upon the farm now occupied by his grandson, George Shafer, some time before the Revolution, but not as early as the other Shafer families, and was the youngest brother of John Shafer. He became a prom-

inent man in the County, being appointed Assistant Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, in 1796, and represented the district in the Assembly in 1806, 1807 and 1808, besides being Supervisor of the town twelve terms, viz:—1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, and in 1814, 1820, 1830, 1831. He was also Justice of the Peace for many years, all of which official duties he performed creditably to himself as a self-made man under adverse circumstances, and acceptably to his constituents. As we have before mentioned, the German Dutch invariably had in each of their settlements, one to whom they would look up as the business man. He was to take their cares of business upon himself, and whatever he considered best to be done, was done, and Shafer, possessing in a degree, the characteristics required—honesty and ability, was the chosen leader. There were many living within the town during his day, superior in ability, but they were of different blood, and had not the confidence of the German element. The Judge was followed in the people's confidence, by General Thomas Lawyer, and it is doubtful if the town will ever claim two men again, that were more highly esteemed by the people of the County, than the Judge and General Lawyer.

Mr. Shafer had two sons and two daughters, George, Peter, Mrs. Samuel Ward, and Mrs. John Brown. He died on the 15th of April, 1839, at the ripe old age of eighty-two years.

Many of the grandchildren are residents of the town, and highly respected citizens, prominent among whom are William and George Shafer and William Brown.

Mrs. Shafer was a daughter of George Warner, Sr., and performed many hazardous acts during the struggle. Previous to the erection of Fort DeBoise, she collected such eatables and other comforts as the citizens of Cobleskill could donate for the garrison at Schoharie, and carried them on horse-back alone, without guide or guard.

While on the way at a certain time, with a plentiful supply, she came across a squad of Indians, who were roasting a pig near the present residence of Mathew Bice.

Assuming friendship and courage, she drew her horse up to the party, and asked one of

them to cut a whip, as her horse was lazy. He complied with her order, and she passed on her "way rejoicing." Three different times she ran from the Fort to extinguish the flames the Indian torch had lighted against the side of her log home. (*Mrs. David Shank.*)

BERNER SETTLEMENT.

In the orchard near Dr. Werner's residence stand two tomb-stones that mark the graves of Joseph Berner and his wife, the first settlers of the place. Mr. Berner was born in 1755 and settled upon the farm now owned and occupied by Peter Myers, and was soon followed by his brother George. A permanent settlement was not made until the close of the Revolution, as frequent invasions of the enemy made it hazardous, being quite a distance from others. Mrs. Berner was a daughter of Jacob Borst, and sister of Joseph and Lieutenant Jacob. Berner built a grist-mill about the year 1789, where Dr. Werner's barn now stands, and a few years after removed it to the site of the old paper-mill. His son, David I., became the possessor and built a larger mill where the present Quackenboss mill now stands, which was burned. In the year 1810 Joseph Berner placed the first burr stone in his mill that was used upon the Cobleskill, it being removed from Alexander Boyd's mill in Middleburgh, to give room for a larger one, which the increasing grain crop of that section demanded. The early built mills were very small, containing but one run of stone, that being either a common sand-stone or a "Sopus," scarcely over two feet in diameter. Fall and spring freshets made it necessary to rebuild several times within a few years, but not being particular about the architectural beauty of the structures, the losses were not considered heavy. Mr. Berner was fortunate in escaping from the Indians in the winter of 1782, as related by author Simms and verified by Jeremiah Berner, the only son of the old patriot at present living, he having arrived at the age of eighty, in full possession of his mental, as well as physical faculties.

"On the 11th of December, 1782, Nicholas Warner and Joseph Berner went from the Schoharie fort to the Warner farm to obtain a sleigh.

When Warner and Berner were fastening one sled to the other, one of the horses broke loose and ran into the woods, and while they were recovering the animal the enemy arrived. Catching the horse they fastened the team to the sled and in driving past the house they discovered the Indians, three of whom attempted to take them. Two of the Indians fired upon them, the third reserving his fire.

"The horses ran partly over a log and the hindermost sleigh, not running true, struck a sappling and drew the box off and Warner under it. Berner, having the reins, was drawn over the box and remained upon the sleigh bottom. The Indian that reserved his fire advanced with steady aim upon Warner, who seeing it was useless to undertake to regain the sleigh, he told Berner to secure his own flight and leave him to his fate. Berner drove to Schoharie, while Nicholas and his father were driven in captivity."

Dr. Philip Werner, to whom belonged the old mill site, for many years the only physician of the place, is of the same family that reside at Warnerville, in fact of the whole County, as they are descendants of four brothers that came from Germany, at different times, the last about the year 1760. The great-grandfather of the Doctor was Christopher, a brother of George, to whom we just referred as being taken prisoner. This branch of the family retain the original name Werner, while others give to "w" the German sound of the English "a," and wrote it so. The Doctor's family settled at Beaver Dam, in Albany county, where a large settlement of Germans was made at an early day. He came to this place in 1846, and retained a practice to the year 1881, when he removed to Washington, D. C. His son, Edgar S., is editor and proprietor of the *Monthly Voice*, a periodical printed in Albany, devoted to the cultivation of the human voice, and which meets with a success beyond the expectation of its energetic editor.

BERNERVILLE.

This little hamlet has been for many years quite an important one to the surrounding country, owing to the different mills that have

been constructed from time to time. The Quackenbush grist-mill has been a substantial enterprise for a great many years, from the fact that its water privilege is one of the best found in the country, enabling the mill to run in dry seasons long after many others have been obliged to cease. The machinery is of the best and produces the choicest brands of flour, which reputation it has always enjoyed.

Farther down, upon the Cobleskill, Isaac Riley built a fulling mill, about the year 1814, and superintended the same until his death, which occurred in 1823, when he was succeeded by his brother-in-law, Milo Bradley.

Mr. Bradley removed to Richmondville, and was followed here by Azariah Riley, who successfully carried on the business until his death, which occurred in 1880. Mr. Riley was a thorough business man, and after several years' connection with the mill accumulated a fine property. In his death, the town lost one of its best men, and the neighborhood a substantial member.

Beside the two mills alluded to, a paper-mill was in operation for a number of years, but it was burned, and no efforts have been made to rebuild.

James Gale & Sons, have for several years manufactured revolving horse-rakes, chairs, wagon felloes, and other wooden merchandise, besides running a clover mill.

Being a business center for the farmers of the vicinity, a store was opened by John Berner, about the year 1825, and was followed by Lawrence Becker, in 1830, Jacob Russell and Jehiel Larkin, in 1835, and Clark B. Griggs after.

It was subsequently managed from 1847 to 1851, as a "Company store," the "company" being farmers and mechanics living near. The idea was to lessen the cost of goods to the stockholders, they having the privilege of obtaining such articles as they wished to purchase, at cost price.

An agent or manager was chosen by the Company at a salary, and for all goods bought by those who were not stockholders, a profit was realized, which it was thought would pay the running expenses of the concern. There were several like institutions throughout the country,

but all of them proved failures, and causes of litigation. The one at this place went down after the experience of four short years, and the building remained idle for a long time. John J. Berner built a distillery upon Peter Myer's present place in 1830. The bridge was built in 1832.

✓ *Union Church.*—The church at this place was built by different denominations, in 1845 and 1846. The pulpit is regularly supplied by the Methodist Episcopal and Free Methodist.

The pastorate in past years has been in connection with other churches, particularly Cobleskill and Mineral Springs, but what years with each, we are unable to learn. We stated it was built as a Union Church, but find the deed of the lot says it is to be privileged first to the Methodist Episcopal society, and when the pulpit is not supplied by a minister of that society in good standing, it was to be privileged to other denominations. —

Passing down the stream, we come to Cary's Mill which was built in 1816 by Nelson Eckerson, and at present is owned by John Cary. The Eckerson family early settled near and have been from the first settlement of the Schoharie valley, especially during the Revolution, one of the head families of the County. The early fathers were intimately connected with the Reformed churches of Schoharie and Middleburgh, and were the substantial supporters of those organizations. Thomas Eckerson a nephew of Major Thomas Eckerson, of Middleburgh, settled after the Revolution, upon the farm now occupied by Alexander Hays. He held a commission as Major after that war, and was a very sagacious and energetic man. He early enrolled himself in the Colonial cause and was the miller of the present Stevens mill, near the lower fort, during the Revolution. He was a son of John Eckerson, and nephew of Thomas, Jr., the major under Colonel Peter Vroman, of the 18th regiment.

This Thomas, had seven children who were as follows:—

John,
Nicholas,
William,
Cornelius,

Agline, (Mrs. Nicholas Snyder,)
Maria, (Mrs. John Dykman.)
Catherine, (Mrs. Henry H. Aker.)

The names Ecker, Eckerson and Aker are often confounded as one, but it is a mistake; while the first two are one, the latter is an entirely different family. The changes through which the former name has passed, with a general history of the family may be seen by consulting the chapter upon Middleburgh.

Kilmer Settlement.—In the year 1799, John Kilmer and his two sons, George and John, came from Clermont, Columbia county, and settled where John Kilmer, Jr., now resides. The whole territory throughout this neighborhood was a dense wilderness, with the exception of small flats cleared by Joseph Berner, Major Eckerson, and James Vielie (now George Young.)

The original family name was Kilmore, but since the family immigrated from the Old Country it has been known as Kilmer.

The father died and left his two sons in his stead, whose children too, have nearly passed away, leaving honorable records as energetic and useful citizens. Those of George, were John, Jeremiah, Joshua, David, Mrs. Jesse Patrick, Christina and Nancy, wives of David I. Berner.

Those of John were Peter, Jonas, John, Jr., David, Thomas, Mrs. T. J. Myres, Mrs. Jacob Zimmer and Mrs. John Werth.

John Kilmore is still living upon the old homestead, at the age of eighty-three, in full possession of his faculties, and we are indebted to his retentive memory for many facts that would have been lost and which are of interest.

About the year 1811, there came to this neighborhood, John Jost Werth, from Schoharie, who settled upon the farm now occupied by his son-in-law, Tobias Bouck.

Mr. Werth was the grandson of the first resident practicing physician and surgeon in Schoharie County, and son of Dr. Johannes Werth, who succeeded his father in the profession and practiced a short time before, and during the Revolution. A few of the old gentleman's instruments are retained by the descendants, and in comparing them with those of the present

day, we can see but few things present a greater improvement than surgical instruments.

Mr. Bouck was appointed Under Sheriff by John S. Brown, in 1842. During his official term the famous Anti-Rent war occurred in the south part of the County, referred to in Chapter IV, of this work. Upon the expiration of Sheriff Brown's term of office, in 1845, Mr. Bouck was elected to the position which he filled creditably to himself and economically to the County. He represented the County in the Legislature in 1857, being elected from the town of Schoharie, where he made his home for many years.

The family now known as Wetsel early settled in this section, and are a branch of the Wessels who came from Holland about the year 1655 or 1660. There were three brothers, and the descendants of one settled upon the Mohawk, one in Columbia county, and one in the Schoharie valley, at a much later date. How or why the name was changed to Wetsel we are unable to say, unless it came through the old German pronunciation, as in many other cases. The change has been of such long standing, it is impossible to convince many branches that a change was made, and even that the family were the true, or Holland Dutch.

John W. Brayman, of the Scotch Patent, established a fulling-mill about the year 1830, and carried on quite an extensive business for many years. He built the present building now occupied by George Casper as a cider-mill, and being the business man of the little hamlet, it received the name of Brayman's Mills, by which it is at present known.

But few fulling-mills are to be found in the County now, where thirty years ago there were many. We find Brayman's mill turned to other uses. Mr. Casper is extensively engaged in the manufacture of cider, making from fifteen hundred to two thousand barrels annually. When we consider the numberless smaller mills that surround it, each making a few hundred barrels yearly, we can have a faint idea at least, of the amount of cider manufactured in the County.

The hamlet being closely connected with Howe's Cave, around which has sprung up quite a settlement, the citizens of the two places and

surrounding neighborhood, erected a fine Reformed Church in the season of 1875. It was in fact a removal of the Reformed Church of Schoharie Mountain, or Punchkill. The society was formed in 1808, and the church supplied by the Schoharie Reformed Church up to the year 1831, when James E. Quaw was called and preached that and the year following. He was succeeded as follows:—

Paul Weidman, 1836 to 1846.

J. M. Scribner, 1847 to 1848.

R. Wells, (in connection with Schoharie,) from 1848 to 1855.

E. Vedder, 1855 to and including 1863.

From the latter to 1872, no regular appointments were made.

J. Markle, 1872 to 1875.

A. C. Millsbaugh, 1876 to 1878.

W. D. Buckelew, 1879, and present.

This church was originally the "High and Low Dutch Reformed," and the first celebration of the Lord's Supper was in February, 1809. Elijah Dickinson was the first clerk, and held the office for a long term of years. The first records are not to be found, consequently the first officers cannot be given.

The present ones (1882) are:—

Elders:—

Tunis Swart,
George Casper,
Theodore Owen.

Deacons:—

Martin Collins,
John King,
Peter Rockefeller,
Alexander Hayes.

Rev. Buckelew, within the past year, has been active in organizing a society at Central Bridge, and in building an edifice in which to worship, in connection with this church, and through his energy and earnestness in the cause, has been successful in the accomplishment of his aim.

Following the stream down one-half mile and looking upon the side of the rock-bound hill, amid the clicking of the workman's hammer strokes,—the rumbling of machinery reducing the rock to dust, and the puffing clattering

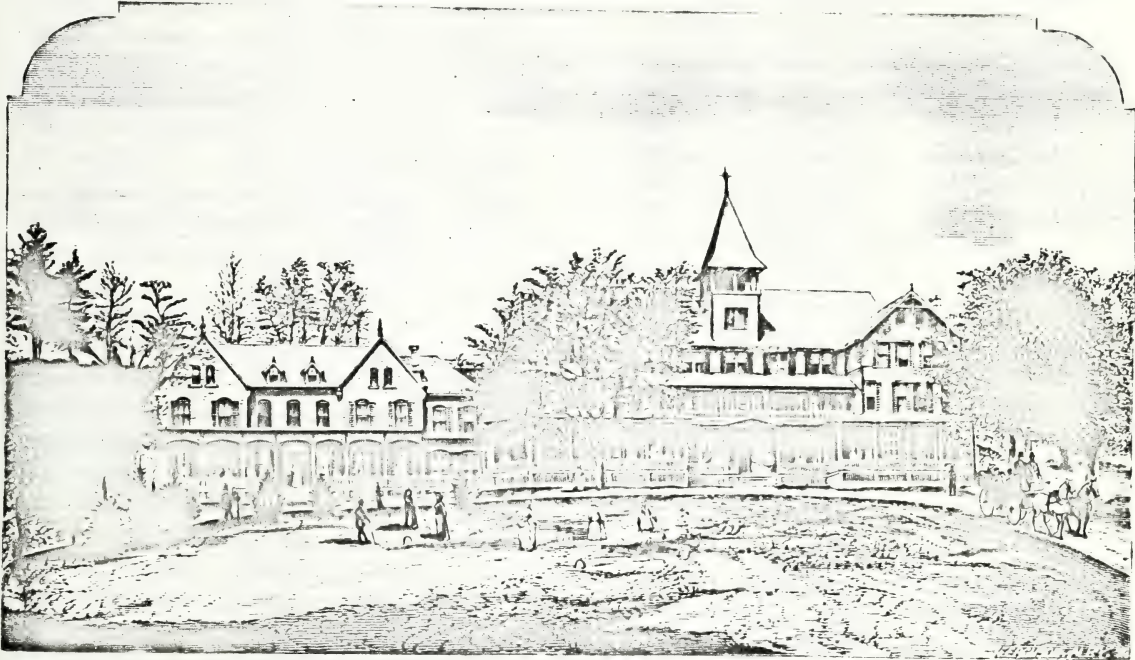
steam-cars, is safely ensconced the entrance of the celebratd Howe's Cave.

HOWE'S CAVE.

This recess of darkness and wonders was discovered by Lester Howe, a farmer living near, in the year 1842. In regard to its discovery we will here copy an article that was published in the *New York Tribune* in August of that year by one of the first visitors that traversed its aisles, whose initials were E. G. S.

He says :—

"It may be well before going any farther, to give some account of the discovery of this cavern. Since the early settlement of this part of the country, it has been known to the inhabitants of the vicinity, that there was a spot somewhere along the ledge of the rocks on the side of the mountain north of the stream, from which issued a strong current of cold air—so strong indeed that in summer it chilled the hunter as he passed near it. It was familiarly



THE CAVE HOUSE.

called the "*blowing rock*," and no person ever ventured to remove the underbrush and rubbish that obscured the entrance, lest probably some hobgoblin or wild beast should pounce upon him as legal prey. Mr. Howe, who has recently removed into the neighborhood, accidentally heard some intimation of its existence in May last, and with commendable curiosity immediately determined to visit it, and set out alone without delay for that purpose. He found the fact as stated, and upon removing the underbrush he discovered a spring, some four feet square, from which proceeded a current of cold air, plainly to be felt at the distance of several rods. Satisfied that there was a cave of some

extent, he returned next day with a friend and entered it by the aid of lights to a great depth. He renewed his visits from time to time, proceeding a little farther each time, until about the 15th ult., when, after penetrating to the distance of a mile, his passage was interrupted by a lake of water. Since then he has transported materials, built a boat, crossed the water, and explored the Cave to the extent of *five* miles by measurement, and the end is not yet. How much farther it extends is unknown."

Mr Howe's financial condition was such as to debar him from opening the discovery to the visiting world with that display of advertising etc.; which is necessary to an immediate success

at the present time, and it was long weary years before its wonders were advertised and the cavern made easy of access by blasting and removing debris, that for ages had been crumbling from the ceiling through the action of frost and water at and near the entrance. The proprietor built a hotel near and at a later date extended the same over the entrance which was burned the 19th of January 1872. The year following, the present gothic structure was erected and owing to the increase of patronage it became necessary to make large additions to it in the winter of 1880 and 1881. Great improvements have been made without and within for the convenience, comfort and safety of visitors.

It is generally supposed that such caverns are caused by convulsive upheavals that occurred in the far back unhistoryed centuries, making fissures in the rocks, through which streams of water pass and slowly wear them deeper and broader, by dissolving the carbonate of lime of which the rock is chiefly composed. In entering we find no signs of upheaval in displacement of strata or dip of rock, but the most peaceful regularity. The side chambers issuing from the ceiling, the "rotunda," and various other sections of the cave, present evidences of the water's work, in their smooth rounded form as "pot holes," so often found in the rock bed of many rivers. As like scenes in nature produce unlike thoughts and feelings to different beholders, so also this dark aisle may exert different impressions upon different minds. The mighty Niagara awakens in some an indescribable awe, while to others it is but a water-fall, possessing a certain beauty, but without grandeur or greatness. A visit to this cavern may give to such the same impression. As we stand within these massive walls, deep down in Nature's vaults, in impenetrable gloom, we cannot but feel the silent majesty of the works of God! When we trace the lines of far-back centuries, written so plainly upon each atom, and vainly attempt to count the ages that have preceded ages, and rolled their events within this lower world, as memoirs of their creation, we exclaim, "Thou ART Infinite!" Here are above, below and all around, the evidences of such power. Our mind is lost in wonder, and the soul cries

aloud, "Yea, Lord; Thou art mighty!" This unfamiliar beauty, and the order of these formations, humbles our genius to acknowledge that Thou art also Wisdom!

The entrance to the cave is guarded by masonry that we approach with gloomy forebodings, but which are soon dispelled by the inhalation of cool oxygen, that seems to exhilarate the lungs and awakens a lively curiosity to peer deeper into the walls of darkness. The rippling of crystal waters and musical sounds of distant water-falls, the now low and then lofty arches that overhang the foot-path, and faint sparkle of dim crystals and calcareous formations as the light approaches, lulls all fear of danger and creates an eagerness for discovery that makes us forget the fatigue that similar efforts would cause in explorations among familiar objects in the outside world.

One of the first attractions is "Musical Hall," where a whisper is reverberated with musical, and at first, pleasant effect. Any tone of voice is sent through the darkness with such distinctness and grandeur of action or vibration that one is silenced, so to speak, with reverence and humility. We stand appalled at the reverberation of sound and anxiously pass on, that the tell-tale walls of Musical Hall might not waft an irreverent word or thought beyond their dim confines.

In passing along, each step awakens deeper interest, and must especially to the geological student, afford double pleasure. The visitor is soon confronted by a small sheet of water that is formed by loose rocks that have dammed the stream that has followed its "hidden path" and assisted to form one of the wonders of the world.

This is Stygian lake, to us inaptly called as its calm, pure sparkling water is in too great contrast to the seething fumes of the Ancients' fabled Styx. As the faint light overpowers the darkness that here crowds upon us, and reveals the stalactitical formations, that interest which we have felt before, is turned to solemn awe and wonder. Here, above we find pendent from the ceiling stalactites of every conceivable pattern, each differing in size and form. From each one a pearly drop of water is gathering to fall below and give place to another, and which has thus for ages been slowly and silently forming, to

beautifully and artistically adorn as 'Prentice' says these

"dim and awful aisles,
Shut from the blue and breezy dome of heaven."

Beyond upon a lower ceiling they are found with less attraction, as nearness robs them of their beauty. But a few more strokes of the

oar reaches an elevated arch that again carries the mind to the far back centuries, and we can but ponder upon the extent of time that these larger specimens of Nature's handiwork has been forming. Here imitations of animate creatures are found, such as birds, beasts, branches of trees and a calcareous pile called Lot's wife.



CRYSTAL LAKE, HOWE'S CAVE.

She is represented as arrested upon the instant of her enjoying the last and forbidden retrospect of the doomed city of Sodom.

The rough and rugged rocks of the Rocky mountains must be mounted to enable the student to study and the adventurer to claim a conquest. The hammer of the geologist is here allowed to click at his strokes in quest of aragonite, and from the lofty pile—beneath which the rippling water rushes—side chambers can be entered that are within themselves equally as curious and wonderful as the main cavern.

Descending to the brook again we push on

through spacious rooms and the "winding way" and we emerge into a circular room whose dome-like roof is, the guide will tell you, beyond the fiery rocket's reach. Within this space we are bade to extinguish the lights and sit in silence. What the light of the sun is to the taper, this darkness is compared with the darkness of the outer world. It is darkness profound; and when the torch is again lighted its feeble rays are greatly appreciated. And thus we go on and on in narrow defiles and broad openings—beneath low ceilings and again lofty arches until passages diverge to narrow crevices—all filled with beauty and grandeur that are indescrib-

able. Throughout are side openings that lead to other aisles—perhaps of greater length and equal beauty but not more impressive. The rushing of the waters, the thunders of distant waterfalls that send their reverberations through these apartments—the grand majesty of the rocks and impenetrable darkness, all unite with the sermons so plainly written upon the whole that “God only is great” and to bow the soul in reverential awe!

In returning over the ground we find the “Chapel” was not noticed which is one of the interesting features of the cave. It is so called from a beautiful combination of stalactites falling over a projecting rock at one extremity of the room and resembles an altar with its fringe and drapery.—Above is an opening in the roof of immense height and from its edge are innumerable stalactites whose beauty can be appreciated only by a visit, and the aid of the gas-light that illuminates the cavern as far as the lake. Here many have retired to celebrate their bridal nuptials to give romance perhaps to imagined tragical scenes.

As we emerge from the cavern, how welcome is the light of day and as we gaze upon the beautiful scene around, the words of Prentice receive an echo from the heart when he says:—

“How oft we gaze

With awe and admiration on the new
And unfamiliar, but pass coldly by
The lovelier and the mightier! Wonderful
Is the lone world of darkness and of gloom,
But far more wonderful yon outer world,
Lit by the glorious sun. These arches swell
Sublime in lone and dim magnificence.
But how sublimer God's blue canopy
Beleagued with his burning cherubim,
Keeping their watch eternal.

PUNCHKILL.

In crossing the Cobleskill from “Howe's Cave,” to the hillside, we soon come to the small hamlet that bears the humble name of Punchkill. The small rivulet that passes down the steep bank, and which, through ages, has worn a deep ravine to give wildness to the scene, was named Punchkill, as historian Simms tells us, by Johannes Lawyer, while surveying, from the fact that the party indulged in a draught of whiskey-punch upon its bank.

The hamlet was long known as “Schoharie Mountain,” and “East Cobleskill,” but, as if to retain the remembrance of the potent punch, those names have long since been dropped, and Punchkill “unanimously adopted.”

An inn being erected here upon the building of the Loonenburgh Turnpike through the place in 1808, and a church the same year, an effort was made to found a village, but met with poor success. At one time it was a busy hamlet, but when the railroad was constructed in the valley below, it received a paralytic stroke, like all other hamlets along the line situated as this, from which it will never revive.

The first church built here was the “Reformed,” and stood near the present Methodist site. After the “fathers” of this neighborhood worshipped within its plain walls forty years, they built the edifice to the west, and dedicated the same on the 27th of December, 1848. Upon building the new church at Braymanville, as we have noticed, the Christian denomination purchased the Second Reformed church building, and now occupy it, its pastorate being in connection with Warnerville and Richmondville.

The Methodist Church was connected in pastorate with the Cobleskill Methodist church, up to the year 1866, it being the fifth class in the circuit of eight. A list of the pastors officiating previous to that date, can be seen by consulting the list of pastors of the Cobleskill church, and of late years those of Mineral Springs. The present edifice was built in 1846.

In the beginning of the century, the highway passing through this place from Cobleskill to Schoharie, was obstructed by gates and bars wherever the road crossed a farm line, as was nearly every road throughout the country. Upon the passage of the Legislative bill, authorizing the building of the Schoharie bridge, petitions were circulated among the townsmen for signatures, praying to the Road Commissioners to open the road “to the free and unobstructed travel of the publick.”

The owners of the land refused to accede to any demands, and openly prevented many from traveling over their lands, which awakened such a feeling against them, that a score or more of the townspeople appeared before the Grand

Jury, with Jared Goodyear at their head, and obtained bills of indictment against them for "obstructing the highway with gates and bars."

The people were successful through Jedediah Miller, to sustain their charges, on the ground that the road had been in use as a public highway, for over twenty years, without molestation. This occurred about the year 1811.

In passing along to the west towards "Mineral Springs," the visitor is charmed with the picturesque view that presents itself in looking up and down the valley. Here is a scene that is worthy the attention of both the lover of nature and of art. As the warm sunshine has a soft refreshing influence upon the earth after summer showers, so this scene refreshes and invigorates the spirit of adoration and wonder, that fills us in beholding the grandeur and boldness of the hills that surround it, and in traversing the winding aisles of the cave, and listening to the thunderings of its waterfalls, deep down in the bowels of the earth. It seems to be more of a panorama, upon which art, guided by the hand of the Omnipotent, has pictured nature in beauty and peace, without marks of a revengeful power, upheaving formations to give grandeur, as if in contrast to the scene around it.

Along this road, it being then but a path, the early settlers of the Cobleskill cautiously and wearily traversed daily to and from their homes, to elude the wily savage and revengeful Tory, during the days that tried men's souls. How often did those troubled ones, while on their weary march, look back and forward to catch the last or first glimpse of their homes, to assure themselves they had such. And with what feeling of anguish they must have looked back on their flight on the second day of June, 1778, and seen the maddening flame lap up their labors of years, and heard the demoniac shriek of their savage victors, over the mangled corpses of fathers, sons and brothers!

MINERAL SPRINGS.

This little hamlet was for many years known as France's Corners, after Jacob France, an early settler. He was a son of Sebastian France, of Turlah, an honest man, and true patriot, who long since passed the sad ordeal of death, leaving a large family to per-

petuate the name and profit by his worthy example. The waters of the spring being utilized for medicinal purposes by Mr. Simeon Deyo in 1867, at great expense, the name of the hamlet was changed to give *eclat* to the surroundings. Mr. Deyo did much to bring these waters to the notice of the public, but it was at a time when the country was laboring under the pains of civil war, and only old established watering places were patronized, and they but sparsely. Of late years, the Cobleskill valley has become a familiar haunt for city pleasure seekers, of quiet temperament, and if the accommodations that Mr. Deyo furnished were standing they could but be profitably utilized.

Betsey or Elizabeth, the daughter of Sebastian France, and sister of Jacob, whom we noticed, was the companion of Miss Catharine Merckley the day she was assassinated in 1780, in Turlah. She married Paul Shank, who settled here and reared a large family. She died on the 27th of October, 1846, at the age of eighty-eight years. Paul Shank was a soldier under Cornwallis, and upon that General's surrendering his sword, Mr. Shank drifted to Watervliet and learned the tailor's trade. The France family living there at the time, he became acquainted with Elizabeth and married her at the close of the War, and settled upon the farm now occupied by David Kromer, and worked at his trade. The children were as follows:—

John,
Sebastian,
David,
Mrs. John Frazier,
Mrs. Jacob France, Jr.,
Mrs. Peter France,
Mrs. Henry Fox.

David is the only son living, and is in his eighty-first year of age. He has been for many years one of the chief supporters of the Methodist church, and an energetic business man. To him we are indebted for information in regard to the Methodist Church of Mineral Springs and Punchkill, whose records are but scraps, and not accessible.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Mineral Springs.—The first meeting for organization

was held October 28, 1844, and Samuel N. Wilber, David Borst, John Shank, David Shank, Daniel Shafer, Henry P. Shafer, and Harvey France, were elected trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church at France's Corners.

The church edifice was built in the latter part of that year and the early part of 1845, and dedicated in May of the latter year. It was built during the pastorate of Revs. Pomeroy and Warner, but dedicated under that of Revs. Amos Osborn and Absalom Mosher, their followers, who officiated in 1846 and 1847. The successive pastors have been as follows:—

Amos Osborn and Samuel Covil, 1847–1848.

Joel Squires and Z. Hurd, 1848–1849.

Joel Squires and William H. Tiffany, 1849–1850.

J. Giddings and William Diefendorf, 1850–1851.

Elisha Watson and Charles Anderson, 1851–1852.

Elisha Watson and Diefendorf, 1852–1853.

A. Lyon and Andrew Heath, 1853–1854.

Andrew Heath and S. B. Gough, 1854–1855.

Joseph Conner and Joseph Cope, 1855–1857.

David Gould and S. S. Ford, 1858–1859.

Alvin Robbins and William J. Sands, 1860–1861.

Hall and Hanna, 1862–1863.

A. D. Heath, 1864–1865.

Hiram Harris and Eli Baker, 1865–1866.

Eli Baker, 1867.

Henry Wright, 1868–1869–1870.

William Earl, 1871–1872.

Jarvis Devol, 1873–1874.

William M. Stanley, 1875.

D. McShell, 1876.

Alfred Eaton, 1877–1878.

J. J. Austin, 1879; the present pastor.

The present officers are:—

Trustees:—

Harvey France,

Lester France,

Jameson Cheesbro.

Stewards:—

Harmon Robinson,

Nelson France,

Christian Bouck.

Recording Steward:—

Nelson France.

Leaders:—

Harvey France,

Jameson Cheesbro.

LAWYERSVILLE.

In the spring of 1760 there came a number of families from Rhinebeck upon the Hudson, and settled to the north and northwest of this hamlet, taking up lands that were then owned by Jurian Young, a resident of Albany county. The settlement was called New Rhinebeck, and a few, only, of the farms then taken, at present lie in the town of Cobleskill, but principally in Seward and Carlisle. The farm now belonging to the Engle Brothers is the principal one (at that time settled) in this neighborhood, and upon it John Conrad Engle and Johannes Yunk (now Young) settled, the latter taking the north and the former the south part of the farm.

Young was a cousin of Peter Young, the first settler of Carlisle, and his children were Benjamin, Ephraim, Gideon, Jonathan, Elias, David and Margaret, (Mrs. Abram Teater.)

Engle and Young were brothers-in-law, Engle having married Eva Maria, a sister of Young. The farm was occupied by the two families until the year 1801, when Gideon Young, the son, being in possession sold to Engle and removed to the present territory of Carlisle. From the two families that settled here has sprang the innumerable families of Engle and Young that are to be found throughout the western part of the County and a vast army in the Western States.

Engle's children were:—

Anna, (Mrs. Hoffman, who was killed with her husband Michael Hoffman, in Turlah, by the Indians on the 10th of July, 1780).

Mathias,

Anna Caroline,

Kathrina, (Mrs. Tunis Kneiskern,)

John William,

Eva,

John,

Elizabeth,

Jergon,

Margaret, (Mrs. Jacob Strobeck).

The daughter Catharine, or Kathrina, was at the house of Michael Hoffman, in Seward, when the Indians approached to murder the family. She fled to the woods and from her concealment saw the double murder committed. Being frightened in the extreme, she fled through the forest, she knew not whither, and emerged upon the flats at Central Bridge. A few men working in the field saw her running as if a lunatic, and giving chase caught her, but her fright was so great it was some time before they could calm her excitement to glean the facts of the cause of her fright. The distance she ran was at least ten miles, through an unbroken and trackless forest. It was one of the many acts of endurance, as well as providential escapes from ruthless murderers that the patriots of the Revolution were forced to experience in their struggle for liberty and independence. During their exciting lives that so often threatened to terminate in bloody tragedy, the hand of Providence frequently warded off the invader's blow and changed appalling scenes to pleasing romance.

In after years, when the deep forest's stillness was no longer broken by the stealthy warrior's whoop; and venomous hate that had saturated Schoharie's soil alike with Patriot's and Tory's blood, was bound by the joyful proclamation of peace to brotherly privileges and Christian acts, Teunis Kneiskern, of Kneiskern's dorf, one of the young lady's captors in her fright, did a "wooing go" to the house of Conradt Engle, and claimed his captive as a bride. Long years of faithful, domestic service did she render to her husband, and reared a family whose pleasure it is to recount, in their old age, the story of their mother's escape from death. Teunis favored the cause of the Crown, with his brother Peter, of Carlisle, while his brothers Jacob and William were true and faithful advocates of freedom. The latter was taken prisoner at Myndert's (Moak's Hollow) by a band of Indians in the fall of 1780, and made his escape from Rebel Island by lashing two brandy kegs together and floating to the main land. During the war the Engle and Young families with many others sought safety at the Camps. The male portion occasionally returned to care for their personal effects.

The lands of this neighborhood are com-

prised in a Royal Grant bearing date 1730, by some people designated as New Dorlach patent and were chiefly owned by Johannes Lawyer, second, of Schoharie, and given by him, to Johannes, the third, (in land succession) as stated in Chapter IV.

After the close of the Revolution, General James Dana of Connecticut, settled to the south of Engle's, upon lands now owned by Gilbert Dana, and was followed shortly by John Redington another Revolutionary soldier and several others from the Eastern States, of whom we will make mention hereafter, as their lives were useful and exemplary ones, and added much of interest to the history of our County.

The new settlement here formed and of which the pleasant hamlet of Lawyersville is the nucleus, being principally made up of Eastern patriots, it bore the name of New Boston for many years.

Another name was applied to the place in after years by many, which may still be heard from the old people. It being upon the Royal Patent granted to Goldbrow and Banyar and others, in 1752, and which lay wholly in the old town of Cobleskill, this place was designated as the Patent and Cobleskill Patent, as well as by its present name Lawyersville.

There not being any Revolutionary incidents connected with this neighborhood more than the part taken by the heroes that settled here we will review their lives to which are justly due, our honor and veneration.

James Dana was born in Ashford, Connecticut, on the 10th of October, 1732, O. S, and was a meritorious officer in the struggle for liberty. Isaac Hall Tiffany, a legal gentleman, living here, in the early days of the settlement, and a neighbor of General Dana, left a manuscript relating to Dana's life, and dictated by him, of which we were fortunate to procure a copy. It reads as follows:—

"He appears to have commenced his military career among the provincial troops under Sir William Johnson. He assisted in building the fort at Lake George, and was at the battle of Lake Champlain, when the fortification was attacked by the French, and General Johnson wounded.

"At the commencement of the Revolution, he was a captain in Colonel Storrs' regiment in General Putnam's brigade of Connecticut militia. He arrived at the American camp at Cambridge where General Ward commanded immediately after the affair at Lexington.

"He was among the troops ordered to throw up a breast-work on Bunker Hill. A half-moon fortification of fascines and dirt was erected during the night.

"Colonel Prescott was the engineer and requested Dana's Orderly-Sergeant to assist in laying out the fortification.

"When the second division of 500 troops landed, they marched up Malden river to gain the rear of the American fortification. This movement was perceived by Captain Dana and communicated to General Putnam. By his orders 500 of the Connecticut troops were marched down and took up their position and formed two deep behind a fence. Captain (afterwards Colonel) Knowlton commanded this detachment.

"Dana was second in command. Putnam in giving his orders, said to these officers, 'Do you remember my orders at Ticonderoga?' 'Yes,' was the reply. 'You told us not to fire until we could see the whites of the enemy's eyes.' 'Well' said Putnam, 'I give the same orders now.' The British advanced with muffled drums and soft fifes and the officers and soldiers got over the fence, south of the American lines. Captain Dana was posted in the center, towards which the British column was advancing. The order was 'Death to any man who fired before Captain Dana.' When the column was eight rods distant, Dana ordered the rear rank down flat; at this word the British officer faced about and ordered the column to deploy from the center. At that instant Captain Dana, Lieutenant Grosvenor and Orderly-Sergeant Fuller fired and the British commanding officer (supposed to be Major Pitcairn) fell mortally wounded. The British troops broke and retreated, formed and advanced again—which probably occupied thirty minutes. When they arrived at the fence again they fired; Lieutenant Grosvenor was wounded in the hand and a bullet also passed through a rail and lodged in his shirt, flattened and harmless! Captain Knowl-

ton's musket barrel was broken off by a cannon ball and a like ball struck a rail against Dana's breast which knocked him down breathless. He however recovered and remained until the line was ordered off.

"When he arrived at his quarters he was confined to his room and unable to dress or undress himself for several days. The first countersign given by General Washington after the battle of Bunker Hill was 'Knowlton' and the parole 'Dana.' In July after, an oration was delivered by Dr. Leonard, Washington's chaplain.

"After the oration and declaration had been pronounced, an Aid of General Washington advanced from the headquarters bearing the American standard, with an order from the General, directed to Captain Dana to receive it and carry it three times around the front or interior circle of the army; furthermore, that in so doing he must not let the colors fall, as it would be considered as ominous of the fall of America. The Captain declined, fearful of his ability to perform this duty in a proper manner. The Aid returned to headquarters with the apology, but soon came back with General Putnam, who, in his familiar way, clapped Captain Dana upon the shoulder and said, 'God curse it, Dana, you look like a white man; take the colors and clear away.' The army immediately opened a passage to the right and left for his excellency, General Washington, and the other officers. The next day the General in his orders expressed the most flattering approbation of the manner in which Captain Dana had performed the ceremony of displaying the flag. Captain Dana was six feet and one inch in height, noble and commanding in his appearance, but modest and retiring in his manners. He was frequently offered promotion in the army, but uniformly declined. The celebrated General Eaton, afterwards so distinguished in the war with Tripoli, was, at the age of fifteen, his waiter and secretary. He was put under Captain Dana at the request of his father. After the close of the Revolution Dana removed to Cobleskill, where he occupied a small log house till his death.

"Notwithstanding his humble circumstances, the Legislature of New York, in consequence of his meritorious services in the Revolution, ap-

pointed him Brigadier-General, being the first who held that office in the County of Schoharie."

General Dana's log cabin stood at the bend in the road between Barney Ottman's and Abram Shutts' residences, on the east side of the road, where he died on the 16th of October, 1817, at the age of eighty-five.

His children were:—

Joseph,
William,
Thomas,
Alvin,
Mrs. Anna Gairie,
Mrs. Nancy Brigham,
Mrs. Sophia Scriptor,
Mrs. Elizabeth Butler,
Polly.

But few of the grand-children are living in the vicinity.

John Redington.—Soon after Dana's settlement, came John Redington, a private in the Revolution, and settled where Jared Van Wagener now resides. Redington was principally in the service around Boston, and was taken prisoner by the British near Horse Neck and placed in the loathsome "Sugar House," in New York, where he remained until the close of the war, and was forced, as thousands of others who were incarcerated there, to endure the greatest amount of suffering; but possessing an iron constitution he lived through the whole, and a few years after peace was proclaimed, settled at this place. He was honored with a Captain's commission for his faithful services, sufferings and patriotism through the war, by Governor Lewis, and was an efficient officer.

The Captain, as he was familiarly called, was a business man, and held several offices of trust in the old town of Cobleskill, and in the year 1812 represented his district in the State Legislature. He kept an inn for many years, but becoming involved in a land speculation, he was forced to part with his pioneer home, and upon doing so built the house where Peter Diefendorf now resides, in 1811, and where he died on the 12th of April, 1830, in his seventy-fourth year. Upon the death of Washington in

1799, Dana and Redington held a funeral service at the house of the latter, under the order of Free Masonry, which was, perhaps, as imposing a ceremony as was ever witnessed in this part of the State. The two heroes were the chief mourners, and the high appreciation in which they held the sainted General and President for his virtues and patriotism, dictated a sincere observance of the country's irreparable loss. The coffin was placed upon a bier, used in those days to carry the dead, and a heavy pall thrown over the whole, upon which were strewn flowers and evergreens by the immense throng of country-folk who assembled to assist in the ceremonies.

While Dana and Redington undoubtedly were the only ones that were immediately under Washington's command that assembled here upon the occasion, yet hundreds of the plain, sturdy sons of the soil and workshops of old Schoharie, whose daily lives had been vicissitudes of danger and privations in the cause of Freedom, felt the loss, and united in mingling their tears, and made the occasion solemn and imposing.

Captain Redington was instrumental in the building of the Reformed church at this place in 1800, and was an active and consistent member. Whatever position he occupied, he proved himself a practical, energetic and thorough business man and useful citizen. His children were as follows:—

John Redington, Jr.,
Mariam, (Mrs. James Blodgett,)
Joseph A.,
Cornelia, (Mrs. Abram Shutts,)
Elizabeth S., (Mrs. Simeon Edison,)
Julia M., (Mrs. John C. Furguson,)
Laura A.

Dana and Redington lie within a few feet of each other, in the quiet cemetery here, and but a trifle beyond this, a neighbor and hero of 1812.

William Elmandorf, though a plain, awkward type of a stout yeoman, was an unflinching patriot, and was the first to step forth when the bugle of war was heard, to defend our frontiers from the invasion of our English foes in 1812. The late Dr. Sylvanus Palmer, a son-in-law of

Elmandorf, left a manuscript of the Major's life which we will here insert, and which undoubtedly is the only true knowledge that can be obtained of the veteran's military career.

"This veteran of the War of 1812 is understood to have been born in Sharon, Connecticut, on the 22d of February, 17—. From a blot on the last figure of the family record, the year is unknown, but is supposed to have been about 1769 or 1770. He worked at the carpenter and joiner's trade with an elder brother in New York, as early as his sixteenth year. With that brother he immigrated to Lawyersville in 1795, when, excepting an early sojourn of a year or two at Poor Town on the West Kill, and a later one of a similar length at Huntersland, he spent the remainder of a long life.

"Here he bought a few acres of land to which he afterwards added a farm, being a gore left out of, or overlooked in all previous surveys, and therefore, still the property of the State. After some years of delay his petition for a grant of this gore, backed by his friend, the late William C. Bouck, then in the Legislature, was granted on paying incidental expenses only. At Lawyersville he changed his occupation for that of a wagon maker, in which he excelled all others in workmanship. Between his trade, farm and saw-mill his time was fully occupied until June, 1812, when war was declared against Great Britain, and the artillery in which he was First Lieutenant, being ordered to drill in Sharon, (Beekman's Corners.)

"Captain Josias Kellogg being in command, Lieutenant Elmandorf proposed that the whole company should enlist. As the Captain declined, Lieutenant Elmandorf, with the music (having first enrolled his own name) marched around the grounds, at the head of those he had persuaded to enlist. The number increased at each circuit, till most, or all, including Captain Kellogg had joined him and all soon after marched to the lines and joined the regiment under Colonel Forsyth.

"As little is said of Lieutenant Elmandorf's life in camp, we pass that over until we come to the skirmish at Ogdensburgh on the 22d of February, 1813.

"The British forces lay at Prescott, in Canada, diagonally across the St. Lawrence river.

They moved upon Ogdensburgh early in the morning.

"At this critical juncture Captain Kellogg was invisible. There being no time for red tape, Lieutenant Elmandorf mustered his men and flew to their gun which they found disabled by one of the trunions having been knocked off during the previous night, whether by home treachery or British powder was never known. The gun was soon put in order and brought to bear upon the enemy and the aim directed by Lieutenant Elmandorf who mounted another gun to witness the enemy's movements. He always spoke with great satisfaction of the execution of his piece and of the regular and frequent occasions he gave the red-coats to fill up their depleted ranks but still they came, nobody else making any effectual resistance. Few seemed in the sudden panic to realize for what they were there placed. After a number of spirited rounds, each scattering legs, arms and owners over the bloody ice, they suddenly saw a larger force had crossed directly in front of the village and now coming around in the rear and must in five minutes more have made prisoners of the only defenders of Ogdensburgh, who were brought between two now rapidly closing columns of the foe. Further resistance being useless, they now retreated in good order up the right bank of the river, pursued by the enemy including Indians. Lieutenant Elmandorf ran back and spiked the guns and upon finishing his task ran in front of the enemy whose balls were whistling from every side past him, but providentially escaped.

"Owing to privations and hardships, Lieutenant Elmandorf was taken down with the epidemic that raged to such an extent in the army, and he was allowed to return to his home.

"When some years after the war, an organization of the Veterans of 1812 was effected, with the late Gen. John S. Van Rensselaer, as commander-in-chief, Lieutenant Elmandorf was raised to the rank of Major. He lived a long and useful life, respected as an honest man, a kind parent, and a marked patriot. He died the 22d of February, 1869, aged ninety-six."

Jared Goodyear.—Near the resting places of the veterans of the two wars that established and

vindicated the best government the world has ever known, lies another Eastern man, a descendant of the pilgrim band who, at an early day, settled here, and added one more resident to New Boston. Jared Goodyear was from Connecticut, and after traveling to the western part of the State with an ox team, and not finding a locality that suited his mind as well as this, here-traced his steps and located near the residence of his grandson, Jared VanWagenen. After years of patient, unremitting labor, he procured means enough to purchase in 1810, the farm of John Redington, and here reared a large, intelligent and useful family, whose lives were blessed exceedingly, but who have nearly passed away. The most prominent of them was Charles Goodyear, who was early fitted for the Bar, and who settled at Schoharie village in 1827, and held a lucrative position for many years.

He was elected to the Assembly in 1840, and Representative in Congress in 1845, 1847, 1865, and 1867. In February, 1848, the Governor and Senate appointed him First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, which office he held for five years. When the Schoharie County Bank was organized (1852), he was chosen president of the organization, and held the position to the year 1868, when he removed to Charlottesville, Va. He was again appointed to the Judicial bench in his new home, and was tendered another term, but declined. He died, lamented by a large circle of social and political friends, on the 9th of April, 1876, in the seventy-second year of his age.

Isaac Hall Tiffany.—About the year 1798, Isaac Hall Tiffany, after finishing his legal studies in the office of Aaron Burr, of New York City, and his brother, George Tiffany, of Schoharie village, settled in Cobleskill village, and made his home at the house of Lambert Lawyer. Mr. Tiffany was from New Hampshire, and a graduate of Dartmouth College, and was unquestionably the best scholar to be found in Schoharie County at that time. The residents of New Boston being Yankees, and those of Cobleskill village, German Dutch, it was natural for congenial spirits to settle together, consequently Mr. Tiffany removed to this settlement in 1800. Here he gained a large practice,

and was highly appreciated by the people in general, and remained until the year 1810, or 1811, when he removed to Esperance, which was fast becoming the most progressive place within the County, it being upon the Great Western turnpike, *the* thoroughfare of the day. While there, he was appointed one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, which position he held about twenty years, but owing to his retiring disposition, officiated but few times upon the bench. He became deeply interested in the breeding of fine wool sheep, which proved disastrous to him, financially, although fortunate to the farmers throughout the country, in improving the grade of sheep. Esperance failing to continue in her progressive march, through the building of the Erie Canal, which drew away the products of the western counties from the turnpike, Tiffany once more removed and established an office at Fultonville, Montgomery county, where he died at the good age of eighty, on the 25th of February, 1859. Mr. Tiffany was tall and slim, of dark complexion, high carriage, ever looking straight ahead, but scrutinizing in the extreme. A perfect man in principle, and gentlemanly in manners. A philosophic reasoner, eloquent speaker, and ready debater. His principles of etiquette and tidiness caused him to appear to many eccentric. He was never married, and tradition says that a strong love existed in his heart for Theodosia, the daughter of Aaron Burr, in whose office he studied. However that was, the strange fate of that lady made a solemn impression upon the heart of Tiffany. The sister of Tiffany married Thomas Lawyer.

Dr. Jesse Shepherd.—We cannot leave this pleasant time-honored *village*, without noticing another Yankee, who came here about the year 1800, from Plainfield, Connecticut, as he was one of the first regular read physicians in the town, and for many years a prominent business man. Perhaps the County has not contained a more skillful practitioner, until later years, than Doctor Jesse Shepherd. His ability as a natural scholar, was conceded, and gave him precedence in society, while his ready flow of wit made him a pleasing companion, and a host of friends.

Being somewhat versed in law, he was fre-

quently engaged in Justice's Courts, and gave to the people an immense amount of amusement in his arguments. He made himself famous throughout a broad extent of territory, as a wit, and his expressions are still referred to and repeated as examples of the most cutting sarcasm. The Doctor was a zealous politician, and was placed upon the bench of the Court of Common Pleas, in 1804, by Governor Morgan Lewis, but how long he held the office we are unable to say, as the records are incomplete during Governor Morgan's term of office. He married a sister of Henry Hamilton, and the fruits of the union, that are now living, are Mrs. Thomas Smith, Thomas, Sidney, Clarence, John, Edward and George. He passed away at the age of fifty-eight, in the year 1832, and was buried by the Masonic Order, in the Lawyersville cemetery, where his ashes still lie with those of his early friends and neighbors.

Hon. Thomas Smith.—Among the many well educated and energetic men that settled at Lawyersville in the early part of the present century was Thomas Smith. He was of English ancestry and was born in the town of Westerlo, Albany county, on the 15th of April, 1804. After attending the district school of the neighborhood and Greenville Academy, he wandered off to Connecticut at the early age of sixteen and engaged in teaching school, receiving his certificate of qualification from the District Court, attested by its seal. A few years after we find he entered the Military Academy, at West Point, as a Cadet. The most prominent among the pupils at that time were Jefferson Davis and Professor Church, the latter remaining in the institution his life-time, as Professor of Mathematics. Military life not being suited to the taste of young Smith, he withdrew from the school and removed with his parents to Westford, Otsego county, N. Y., from whence he located at Lawyersville as a teacher, and employed his time not occupied by such duties, in reading law in the office of Jedediah Miller.

After being "admitted" to all the Courts, he married a daughter of Dr. Jesse Shepherd and settled within the hamlet and began his active life as a lawyer and politician, removing however, in the course of a few years to the village

of Cobleskill. The young lawyer soon entered the political field as an ardent Whig, and became the leader of the party in the County. There being an overwhelming Democratic majority to overcome, in both town and County, Mr. Smith could not expect success, much less official honors. However, he applied himself to the work, and the year 1839 found him in the Board of Supervisors. Upon the election of Governor Seward, the year following, he was honored with the appointment of Surrogate, which office he filled four years, with such credit to himself as to gain many friends, who elicited an anxiety for his further promotion. In 1846 he was elected to the Assembly in the interest of the removal of the Court House site to Cobleskill, and re-elected the year following. He made a lively canvass in 1848 for Representative in Congress from Schoharie and Otsego, but was defeated by a very small majority for the district. He was also nominated by the Whigs of Schoharie and Delaware for State Senator, we think in 1849, but was again defeated by a greatly reduced majority. It will be seen he was highly honored by his party, and as a leader was a hard worker and sagacious to gain the positions and bring about such results in the various canvasses in which he was engaged, when such extreme odds were against him. "As a lawyer," says a contemporary of Mr. Smith, "starting with a finished education and manners, well grounded in all the branches of elementary law, with a growing practice and studious application, he gained a standing at the Schoharie County Bar second to none, and in the argument of causes before a Court *in Banc* he was equally strong among strong men."

He was a gentleman of fine appearance, unaffected in manner, of medium height, erect and well formed, a full developed head that early in life was covered with snow-white hair, which gave to him the appearance of a man much older. He died in Albany on the 6th day of December, 1861, and was interred in the family plot in the Cobleskill cemetery.

Of Mr. Smith's family the most prominent is Honorable Henry Smith.

Hon. Henry Smith was born at Lawyersville on the 14th of March 1829. He early enjoyed

the fellowship of the legal gentlemen found at the *village* and the benefits arising from the circulating library, long sustained by the neighborhood. Beyond such facilities to improve his mind, the village schools and the Esperance academy alone furnished means to prepare him for the prominent and active life he has passed. When but a lad he was engaged in the city of Detroit as clerk in a hardware house but that not being congenial to his tastes, he returned home and applied himself to the study of law in his father's office.

Such was his rapid progress that he was ready for an examination nearly two years before reaching the age the law required the applicant to attain, to receive a license—which time was employed in the office and occasionally trying causes in Justice courts where he early proved himself adapted to the profession agreeable to his genius. After Mr. Smith was admitted he soon rose to the front rank in the County as a pleader at the Bar, as his oratorical powers are above the general and his ingenious reasoning captivating. He removed to Albany and formed a co-partnership with "Bancroft & Moak" one of the leading legal firms of the city and became prominent as a criminal lawyer and has been engaged in many such cases, that have enlisted the world's attention within the last fifteen years, beside other State and National causes in which the best talent of the day was retained.

In 1872 he was elected to the State Assembly from Albany City and was chosen Speaker. The session was marked as one in which partisan spirit predominated and the cause of the people was little heeded—making the position Mr. Smith occupied anything but pleasant and unusually onerous. Yet through his affability and precision, he passed through the ordeal with dignity and received high encomiums as an able officer from the honorable body over which he presided.

Hon. Joseph H. Ramsey was a student of Miller's, whose indefatigable energy displayed in the building of the Susquehanna Railroad gave to him renown, as a legislator and persevering worker.

Mr. Ramsey was very successful in his legal business at this place and formed a co-partner-

ship with his tutor, Jedediah Miller, afterwards with Joshua M. Donaldson and still later with his student the late William H. Young. In 1855 he represented the County in the Legislature, and in 1856 and 1857, was State Senator from this District. He removed to Albany and represented the 14th District in the Senate in 1860, 1861, 1862 and 1863, and occupied the position of President of the Susquehanna Railroad Company for several years. Mr. Ramsey is still living at Albany, and is deeply interested in the proposed "West Shore Railroad" of which company he has been President. Also long and closely connected with Mr. Ramsey at this place was William H. Young.

William H. Young was a son of Jacob Young now of Carlisle, and was born in Cobleskill. Being unfortunate in the use of one of his limbs, under great disadvantages he fitted himself for the legal profession, which he entered in the office of Mr. Ramsey, with whom as before stated he formed a co-partnership.

"Billy" as he was familiarly called possessed a quick, perceptive mind, and also a large heart, that won for him a host of warm friends, and added much to the firm's success. For several years the court's calendar noticed but few cases in which the firm was not employed. Mr. Young was elected District Attorney in 1862, and was re-elected in 1865, which was the only office with which he was honored, as his sudden and untimely death debarred his friends from conferring upon him the election of Senator, as anticipated. Soon after the removal of Mr. Ramsey to Albany, Mr. Young removed to Cobleskill village where he identified himself with the progression of the village and its business interest, in behalf of which his generous labors and purse were not withheld. On the 25th of August, 1874, in the bloom of his manhood and legal success, he suddenly passed away, at the age of forty five, deeply lamented by the community and the legal fraternity. It was said of him by the local press "in the public walks of life, whether in an official or professional transaction or character, his position was openly, squarely and manfully taken and maintained, for he cordially spurned every semblance of unworthy compromise, and abhorred a spirit of truckling policy in barter for princi-

ples he deemed right, for the mere purposes of a temporary advantage.

Shutts Family.—In 1805, Abram Shutts moved from Columbia county, New York, and settled upon the farm now occupied by his son, Abram, and reared four sons—John C., Henry, Abram, and William, each of whom followed agricultural pursuits, with the exception of Henry, who engaged in mercantile business at Lawyersville with the late Charles Courter, as before stated, and at Sharon Hill, with Abram A. Kneiskern of Carlisle, in 1839. He was endowed with a literary mind, and is one of the leading miscellany writers of the day. The productions of his pen have been voluminous, and published by many of the leading periodicals of high standing, instead of book form, with the exception of a pamphlet of forty-two pages—the first and second edition of which appeared in 1857 and 1859, entitled “Tobacco,—a satire by a Non-Sucker,” excusing the latter assumed *incognito* thus:—

We call the subjects of the Realm of Rum
“Suckers”—are not those of Tobaccodom
As much so? Does not each respective tribe
Alike in its peculiar way “imbibe?”

The laconic preface exhibits the author's generosity of ideas, as he says:—

“This work the author here inscribes in brief,
To all who love and all who loathe the Leaf.”

Mr. Shutts' writings are marked, as fluently written, precision, weight of thought and honest aim and expression. He married Mary Ann H. Dodd, of Hartford, Conn., in 1855, and the union proved to be congenial to both, as she was of rare literary taste and ability. Of her, Caroline May, in her “Female Poets,” says:—

“Mary Ann Hanmer Dodd was born at Hartford, Conn., in 1813, and educated alternately at Weathersfield, and in her native town. Her productions first appeared in the *Hemethenean*, a magazine conducted by the students of Washington College, Hartford. Since that time she has been a frequent contributor to the *Ladies Repository* and the *Rose of Sharon*, an annual edited by the late Mrs. Mayo. She possesses a poetical sensibility and the power of deducing moral lessons from the changes of life.”

R. W. Griswold, in his “Female Poets of America,” makes mention of several of Mrs. Shutts' productions “as of rare excellence,” as “The Mourner,” “The Dreamer,” and “Burns.”

The writer's attention was particularly attracted by “Charity,” “Brighter Hours,” and “In Life's Young Morn,” from her work published in 1844, as efforts of literary excellence. Mrs. Shutts was a lady of culture, modest and unassuming, and drew around her a large circle of friends, particularly those of literary taste. She died near Albany City on the 18th of January, 1878, at the age of sixty-four.

But few places of even greater size can produce a better record than this little *ville*. It has seemed to be the scholar's home, where logic has shed its classic rays on unpretending worth, and produced men that were a host within themselves. While we of another school from them, under the light of brilliant literary advantages, take pride in boasting of our superiority in exigent times, yet when we calmly look back upon such men as have graced the legal profession from this place, we cannot but acknowledge their superiority, and when we look upon their legislative career we cannot but admire their candor and integrity. Their opportunities to become corrupt were as good as to-day, but they did not give way to the temptations; they based their acts upon *honor* as men, and when they were laid down in their narrow homes, that honor remained, unstained, irreproachable.

We cannot leave this quiet cemetery, in all its rusticity, without a thrill of veneration for the illustrious that lie here so silently, and have left such lasting and honorable impressions of their “once having been.” Here the warrior, statesman, philosopher, and peasant lie side by side, noble by acts in life—generous by example, in death. Wave after wave of earth's changing scenes may obliterate much that man has built and fostered, yet well spent and useful lives like theirs, remain and shine with brighter luster as the foaming spray of less honorable ones, dash against their worthy records.

The house so long occupied by General Lawyer, was built in 1810, by Seth B. Wakeman, the father of the present owner and occupant.

Mr. Wakeman came from Connecticut about the year 1796, as a carpenter and joiner. His first work within the County, was in the building of Judge Beekman's palatial residence. In 1802, while at work upon that building, Lambert Lawyer was burned out, and called upon Mr. Wakeman to build the present Courter mansion.

In 1808 he built that of Lawrence Lawyer, and in 1810 and 1811, the General Lawyer and John Redington houses. He was one of the most methodical men found in the country, and none was respected more. He kept a diary from his boyhood, and to it we have been indebted for many dates and transactions, that could not have been obtained with accuracy without it. His children, Horace, Alonzo and Horatio, were tutored in conformity with his ideas of duty and order, and are the brightest examples of manly integrity and systematic business men.

A public library was sustained at this little hamlet at a very early day, and we believe it was the only one in the County. The school found here was in a prosperous condition, with a well educated teacher as early as 1800; and in looking over the sketches of the lives of the settlers, which we have not intended to overdraw, we can imagine Lawyersville to have been a "green spot," in a new country. To say that the settlers were free from taint—that their characters as Moralists and Pietists, were without blemish, would be exaggeration. But in knowing "to err is human," and that they were men of action—brain action—and were useful in propagating sound, intellectual, political and social principles, we can well afford to draw the folds of the curtain of Charity over their faults, and look with respect and pride upon the bright pages their lives have written.

The Reformed Church standing here, was founded in New Rhinebeck, in 1788. Upon the records we find in German:—

"In the year of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 1788, was by the Grace of God here at Durlach and Rhinebeck, founded a High German Reformed Church by the Reverend F. C. L. Droffel (Broeffle), of Schoharie. The following officers were ordained:—

Peter Young,
Philip Karker,
Abram Mereness,
Martinus Vrooman,
Conrad Eker,
William Heintz, (Hynds,)
Johannes Engle,
Hendrick Adams."

The settlers of Rhinebeck, belonging to this society, worshipped in the present Rhinebeck church, with the Lutherans, until an edifice was built at this place in 1800, which stood a few yards to the south. The Society intended to build upon the present Winne farm, which was given by Johannes Lawyer for that purpose, but as the citizens of Dorlach built the present Reformed church in 1795, and quite a settlement was anticipated here, the Rhinebeck branch decided to build as they did, and formed a legal organization in 1797, as required by law.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was first administered to this branch on the 21st of August, 1796. The first settled minister of the united congregation of Dorlach and Rhinebeck was Rev. Christian Bork, of the city of Berlin, and was ordained in Albany on the 2d of March, 1796. Those that have followed are as follows:—

M. Gasple,
Isaac Labagh, (1805,)
Nicholas Jones,
Isaac Labagh, (recalled in 1821,)
B. Bassler,
William Lockhead,
Cyriel Spaulding,
E. S. Hammond,
D. B. Hall,
H. A. Raymond,
J. H. Van Wort,
J. Markle,
G. A. Reis,
William P. Davis, present pastor.

Upon the record in the clerk's office, at Schoharie, we found the following:—

"Whereas by virtue of an act entitled 'An Act making such alterations in the Act for Incorporating Religious Societies' as to render the same more Convenient to the Reformed

Protestant Dutch Congregation passed 7th March, 1788.

"We, the subscribers, Christian Bork, Minister, Johannes Young, Joshua Cook, Salah Jackson, John M. Brown, Elders, and William Brown, Johannes Kerger, Sylvanus Parkinson, Deacons, of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church or Congregation, formed and established at Rhinebeck, in the county of Schoharie, having assembled together at Rhinebeck in the county aforesaid on this 20th day of April, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and ninety-Seven, by virtue of said act, do by these presence *Certify* that the trustees of the said church or Congregation, and their Successors in office, forever as a body corporate, shall be called, distinguished, and known by the Name, Style and Title of the Minister, Elders and Deacons of the Dutch Reformed Church of Rhinebeck, in the county of Schoharie. IN WITNESS whereof we the said Minister, Elders and Deacons have hereunto set our hands and seals this day and year last above written.

Signed Sealed and Delivered in the presence of

NICHOLAS KERGER,
PETER BORK,

CHRISTIAN BORK,
Minister.

JOHANNES YOUNG,
JOSHUA COOK,
SALAH JACKSON,
J. M. BROWN,

Elders.

WILLIAM BROWN,
JOHANNES KERGER,
SYLVANUS PARKINSON,
Deacons.

Lutheran Church.—The Lutheran church at this place, as well as the one at Gardnersville, is a monument of the labors of Rev. Philip Wieting. During his pastorate of many long years in the old Rhinebeck church, many of his flock lived in this neighborhood, and upon abandoning the old church and building the one at Gardnersville, the distance compelled the charge to divide, and erect a house of worship here in 1849. Both churches were supplied by

the same pastor during the life of Mr. Wieting, but for the last eleven years the Rev. Marcus Kling has officiated in connection with Little York.

Mr. Kling is at present the veteran Lutheran minister of this section, having preached for the term of thirty-three years. He was born in the town of Sharon, on the 6th day of January, 1820. He entered the Hartwick Seminary in 1842 and received his license to preach the Gospel in July, 1848. His first charge was Argusville, Little York and Centre Valley, and he held the same without interruption for eighteen years and nine months. These churches, upon the commencement of Mr. Kling's pastoral duties, were struggling weakly, but through his earnest labors they became strong and active, and are firm monuments of his work under the help of Providence. The Lutheran church of Johnstown, Fulton county, gave him a call to which he responded in July, 1867, and remained two years and eight months, when, there being a vacancy at Lawyersville and Little York, he returned to a portion of his early field of labor. Eleven years he has successfully officiated in the latter two churches, making as before mentioned thirty-three years of ministry. But few pastors draw around them more confiding flocks than Mr. Kling. His earnest sermons, persevering labor, and watchful care over the spiritual interests of his charge, awakened a confidence that but few are fortunate to gain.

During the interval from Rev. Wieting's resignation, (1868) to the commencement of Mr. Kling's pastorate, this pulpit was supplied by Rev. P. H. Turner, in 1869, Chauncey Diefendorf and N. Daniels.

Early Merchants.—The first general store of merchandise at Lawyersville was kept by George W. Porter, a native of Vermont, and soon after Sprague & Dana, of Esperance, followed. Peter Osterhout, of Schoharie, Goodyear & Frisbee, Courter & Shutts, Herrick & Redington, George Goodyear, Abram Osterhout, Gilbert Kneiskern, and J. Van Wagenen, successively followed. At times there were two and three stores, each doing a lively business, while the present Cobleskill village was dormant, or inactive.

Undoubtedly the first practical physician in

the town of Cobleskill was Jabez Kromer, of Pennsylvania, who came in 1793, and established a practice but did not obtain a license for several years after. Others of a school of quacks, from time to time had stopped for a while to attend to the ills of the settlers, by "talking" the disease away, the patient swallowing charmed minerals or drinking gallons of syrups made from the medicinal roots and herbs with which the forests abounded—the latter being the only practical method and undoubtedly one they as little understood.

Dr. Shepherd, as we have already noticed followed Dr. Kromer about the year 1798 or 1799.

Dr. Patrick Gannon removed from Columbia county in 1815, in company with his father-in-law William Huddleston who was assassinated in 1818, while performing his official duties and whose remains lie in the cemetery at Lawyersville. Dr. Gannon settled upon the farm now owned and occupied by ex-Judge William C. Lamont and practiced until the year 1830, when he removed to Albany City where he died in February, 1851, at the age of seventy-five.

Contemporary with Dr. Gannon's first years of practice was Dr. Cornell who practiced till the year 1830 when he settled in the Western States. Dr. Cornell occupied a small yellow house, still standing nearly opposite of Harder's machine shops and commanded an extensive practice.

Dr. Daniel H. Kibbe immediately after finishing his studies with Dr. Greene of Esperance, settled at Lawyersville and enjoyed the confidence of a large section of the country, but his health became too much impaired by falling from a horse, to allow him to endure the exposures his profession required him to meet. The Doctor married a daughter of General Thomas Lawyer. He died after a lingering illness on the 8th of January, 1850.

Dr. Rowley, of Warnerville, (at the same time Kibbe practiced) also claimed a lucrative patronage, as did Dr. Lorin Thompson who was a resident of the village. Mr. Thompson was a student of Dr. Delos White, of Cherry Valley and removed from Carlisle in 1835, and remained here until his death which occurred

in 1846. Dr. John H. Benham was a co-partner with Dr. Thompson a short time. He removed to the city of Hudson in 1847, where he still resides. The vacancy made by the death of Dr. Thompson was immediately filled by Dr. John J. Flint, a student of White and graduate of the Albany Medical College. After a practice of six years Dr. Flint removed to Fort Edward leaving his fellow student at college, David Frasier, alone in the field. Dr. Frasier, at present practicing physician of the Allopathic school, was born in the town of Richmondville (then Cobleskill) November 23, 1819. He entered the office of Dr. C. VanDyck in 1844, and that of Swart & Crounse in 1845.

He graduated at Albany in 1847, and settled at this place, where he still holds a lucrative practice. Beside his professional duties he has been called upon at various times to perform official duties, to which his constituents have given him encomiums of credit, such as only careful and earnest offices receive. He represented the town in the Board of Supervisors in the years 1867, 1868 and 1869.

Michael G. Delany, a nephew and student of Dr. Gannon, settled at Lawyersville, but did not practice medicine. He entered the United States Navy in 1830, and remained in service for many years. He removed to and died in Geneva.

Augustus Lawyer, son of General Thomas Lawyer, studied in the office of Dr. Henry Greene, of Esperance, and entered the United States Navy in 1838. He circumnavigated the globe in the "Brandywine," under Commodore Parker. During the Mexican war, under Commodores Conner and Perry, he acted as surgeon, and was in several engagements, and received creditable commendations for his skill in surgery.

Lemuel Cross, contemporary with Dr. David Frasier, from 1861, was born in the town of Sharon, and for several years was a successful school teacher. He entered the office of Dr. Leonard Hawkins, of Newport, and after that, of Dr. Amenzo White, of Cherry Valley, for the study of medicine, and graduated in 1856 from the Albany Medical College. He practiced a portion of the year following at Canajoharie,

and then became connected with Dr. Gleason as an assistant in surgery, with whom he traveled two years. In 1861, he located at Cobleskill village. In the beginning of the war he was appointed by Governor Morgan examining surgeon for the draft, and in 1879 to the same position by the United States Commissioner of Pensions, for the counties of Schoharie, Otsego and Delaware.

Dr. Valentine Cornell removed from Richmondville in 1874, and settled here as an Allopathist, but being a victim to consumption, he died in March, 1877.

Dr. Ezra Lawyer was born in Carlisle, in August, 1826, and studied in the office of Dr. Isaac Mayham, of that town. He graduated in November, 1854, at the Castleton Medical College, and settled in Broome county, N. Y., and removed to Cobleskill in 1874. In connection with his practice, he engaged in drugs and medicines in 1876, and discontinued the same in 1880, to give more attention to practice, in which he is successful.

Dr. Charles K. Frasier, son of Dr. David Frasier, studied in the office of the late Dr. J. H. Armsley, of Albany, and graduated at the Albany Medical College in 1874. He immediately settled here, and is flattered by a lucrative practice.

Dr. C. Durant Welsh, of the Homeopathic school, settled in the village in 1880, and Dr. Allen, of the Eclectic school, at Lawyersville, and was followed by Dr. W. Tyler Miller, an Allopathist, the same year.

As has already been stated, Isaac Hall Tiffany was the first professional lawyer in the town, and was followed by General Thomas Lawyer, Jedediah Miller, Thomas Smith, Demosthenes Lawyer, Joshua M. Donaldson, Henry Smith, Joseph H. Ramsey, Josiah L. Hawes, Jeremiah Fox, and William H. Young, as principals, and those that now reside here, a sketch of whom may be found in Chapter VI. Of those we have here particularly mentioned, all, with the exception of Smith, Ramsey and Hawes, have passed to the Bar of the Eternal court. While the three stand as links to bind the past with the present, and the old school with the new, they well represent the qualities that their tutors

possessed, such as energy, studious application to professional duties, and professional integrity. The legal critic would be at a loss to find better talent, in a country town, than those men possessed that have passed away. They were a host within themselves, upon whom the Bar of to-day can look back and find worthy examples to follow in the practice of their duties as advocates of honor and justice. Their struggles under adverse circumstances in preparing themselves for the important duties they so successfully performed, are also worthy examples for the youth of our country similarly situated, to follow, in the intricate and discouraging labors against poverty's pressing burdens.

The first regular manufactory of the town, outside of flour and lumber by the numerous small mills that were early built, of which we have any knowledge, was a hattery by one Miller, established about the year 1810.

Joseph Betts was a journeyman in the factory, and upon his settling above Lawyersville, and launching out in a business manner, Miller's works at this place were abandoned. S. Tapping revived the works a few years after, but did not continue them long. Benjamin Barton settled upon the farm now occupied by Martin and Chester Berner, sometime previous to 1820, and manufactured the well-known "Barton Grain Cradle," an implement of his own invention, and said to surpass all others. He manufactured it up to the year 1825, when he removed.

The cradle is made at the present time, only by Christian Bouck, of Mineral Springs, and is still known as the "Barton."

Besides the grist-mills already mentioned, one was built immediately after the Revolution, by David Bouck, a short distance to the east of South Grand street bridge, and was succeeded in 1830, by the present mill owned by Milton Borst. Alexander Boyd, of Middleburgh, built the structure, and brought the present "flour run" from his mill at that place. The property was owned at one time by George Goodyear, and was for a long time called the "Goodyear mill." Mr. Borst, the present proprietor, was for many years the owner of the "Scribner mill," of Middleburgh, previous to his removal here.

The first agricultural manufactory in the town

of which any knowledge can be gleaned, was carried on by Jacob Shafer upon the farm now occupied by "Boss" Hilts. He manufactured a two-handled plow, which was considered by most people a humbug. They have been described to us as long, awkward implements, yet they did good service for those who could be induced to use them. Shafer spent quite a property in the project, and persisting in the business he was called "crazy Jake," by which name he was known to the day of his death. Soon after, a firm bearing the name of "Bouck & Butler" made a specialty of straw cutters, worked by a lever. An occasional one may be found in the County at the present time after a usage of over forty years.

Empire Agricultural Works.—The next establishment of any note was the "Empire Agricultural Works." Reuben and Minard Harder purchased the foundry and small agricultural works of David Anthony, erected by the latter gentleman about the year 1850. Before we go farther we cannot in justice to genius, pass by Mr. Anthony, without giving notice of his superior qualities as a mechanic. He was a native of Sharon, and before locating at this village was engaged in a foundry at Moak's Hollow [1847] where he struggled with his genius in a small way and laid plans for an extensive business at this place. At Cobleskill he manufactured, in connection with the foundry, horse-powers and other implements of his own invention, but was in such circumstances as not to engage largely therein. He was looked upon by prominent mechanics throughout the country as a superior. Messrs. Harder purchased Mr. Anthony's interest in May, 1859, and at once enlarged the buildings and increased the facilities to manufacture agricultural implements, making horse-powers and threshers a specialty. In April, 1870, Reuben's interest was purchased by Minard, under whose management the establishment has been and is still conducted. While other firms in like business have and are manufacturing a greater variety of machines, this firm have confined themselves largely to railway horse-powers and threshers of their own, and Mr. Anthony's inventions and patents, and none other, claiming superiority over others in the

saving of power, ease of draught, durability and saving of grain.

At the time these machines were first manufactured they were almost entirely unknown outside of the County, but now they are in use throughout the United States and portions of Europe. The "Fearless" as these machines are called were awarded a medal and diploma of merit at the "World's Fair" in 1876, as by report, which says "For special features in the tread-power, to secure light running and minimum friction. Also for the ingenious form of straw shakers, which ensure the proper agitation to separate the grain from the straw." Two gold medals were also awarded to the Harder's by the New York State Agricultural Society, and like emblems of merit received from other sources too numerous to mention.

The establishment is an honor to the County and we feel justly proud of the genius that invented these machines, together with those that have worked them up to world renown, in a systematic and energetic business way. They are neither of foreign birth but germs that sprang from the farm and the rude district schools of our own County.

In 1872, John H. Overpauh and Charles Courter purchased the sash and blind factory of Alexander and William H. McHensh & Co., who had been engaged in the business a few years, being the first firm making a specialty of those articles in the town. Improved machinery was procured to facilitate manufacture, and heavy purchases of lumber for building purposes made, to which has been added from year to year, as increased demand has required, all the necessary machinery and stock for a first-class factory and lumber yard. The firm received a check in business affairs through a conflagration in 1877, that burnt the building and destroyed the machinery, entailing a loss of several thousand dollars. The buildings are commodious and the machinery first-class, consisting of various saws, powerful planers and jointers driven by a forty-horse power engine.

A co-partnership was formed between John VanVoris and H. Harder, of Eminence, in November, 1880, for the production of flagging, curb and mantle stones, from the quarries of

Fulton, which bids fair to become an extensive business.

Peter Feek, son of John Feek, of Gallupville, commenced the manufacture of carriages extensively in 1870, and was succeeded by James Kennedy the year following. In 1872 John Feek took possession of the buildings near the fair-grounds and manufactured alone until 1873, when Thompson Perrine became connected, who is now the sole proprietor. These firms have made a specialty of light buggies, carriages and cutters, and during their existence have made them by the hundred. Beside supplying the increasing home demand, large shipments have been made yearly to distant parts, and their superior workmanship and style of finish make an increased demand, that can but require an extension of facilities.

William H. and N. B. Davis, of Quaker Street, N. Y., came to the village in April, 1880, and engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes. They employ from ten to fifteen workmen, and make a specialty of kid and calf goods, that find a ready market.

Cobleskill Lodge, No. 394, A. F. and A. M., was organized at Summit and removed to Richmondville, and soon after it was wafted to Cobleskill. It was chartered on the 24th of June, 1856, and the name changed, as at present, in June, 1862.

The first officers of the organization were:—

Isaac Mann, W. M.
Seymour Boughton, Sr., S. W.
Edward Kinnicutt, J. W.

It numbers at the present time about one hundred and seventy-five members and is in a flourishing condition.

The present officers are:—

S. J. Thatcher, W. M.
John M. Dean, S. W.
William Farqher, J. W.
Jeremiah Borst, Treas.
Clarence Fox, Sec.
Henry Bellenger, S. D.
Irving E. Ottman, J. D.

Rescue Lodge, No. 209, I. O. G. T. of Cobleskill was organized on the 23d of March, 1880.

The charter officers of the society were:—

R. T. Lafevre, W. C. T.
Ida Fuller, W. V. T.
Reuben Harder, W. C.
L. L. Griggs, W. S.
Mrs. Wm. H. Weeks, W. A. S.
Elmer France, W. F. S.
Elnora J. Beare, W. T.
John Mack, Jr., W. M.
Mrs. W. C. Shafer, W. D. M.
Anna Hyser, W. E. G.
Charles France, W. O. G.
Maggie E. Kling, W. R. H. S.
Libbie Overpaugh, W. L. H. S.
Jerome Niles, P. W. C. T.

The order numbers one hundred and eight members, and has one of the finest rooms of any society in the County, which are also occupied by the

Anchor Temple, No. 44, of Juvenile Templars.
The following are the chartered officers:—

Rev. J. S. Bridgford, C. T.
Mary Hurst, V. T.
A. J. Niles, R. S.
Jay Cady, P. C. T.
Edward Borst, T. S.
Rose Hallenbeck, T.

Chartered January 13, 1881.

Post Snyder G. A. R.—This Post was formed in 1868, and named in honor of Lieutenant George W. Snyder, of Sumter memory. The object of the order, as copied from the "order card" is:—

1. To preserve and strengthen those kind and fraternal feelings which bind together the soldiers, sailors and marines, who united to suppress the late Rebellion, and to perpetuate the memory and history of the dead.

2. To assist such former comrades in arms as need help and protection; and to extend needful aid to the widows and orphans of those who have fallen.

3. To maintain true allegiance to the U. S. of America, based upon paramount respect for, and fidelity to the National constitution and laws; discountenance whatever tends to weaken loyalty, invites insurrection, treason, or rebellion, or in any manner impairs the efficiency and perma-

nency of our free institutions; and to encourage the spread of universal liberty, equal rights and justice to all men.

"The Grand Army of the Republic is an organization purely patriotic, social and charitable."

The charter officers of this lodge were:—

C. E. Foote, Com.
Charles Hamilton, S. V.
M. D. Lewis, Jr., V. C.
Eugene Coffin, O. D.
J. M. Esmy, Q. M.
John S. Collett, Adj.
Peter E. Borst, O. G.
Walter Dingman, Chaplain.

The First National Bank of Cobleskill was organized February 8, 1864, with a capital of sixty thousand dollars, under the following Board of Directors:—

C. Courter,
C. H. Shaver,
Alonzo Wakeman,
Jonathan R. Herrick,
Minard Harder,
Stanton Courter.
Charles Courter, *President*.
Stanton Courter, *Cashier*.

The capital has been increased to one hundred thousand dollars.

The present Board of Directors are:—

J. R. Herrick,
C. H. Shaver,
Alonzo Wakeman,
Abraham Sternbergh,
James Becker.

The officers of 1882 are:—

J. R. Herrick, President.
D. C. Dow, Cashier.
Archibald Kilmer, Teller.

The village of Cobleskill was incorporated by Legislative act passed April 3, 1868, with the following officers as Trustees:—

Charles Courter,
William B. Calkins,
David Frasier,
Charles H. Shaver,
William H. Young,
Henry Smith.

A meeting was held on the 17th of April, of that year, when the following were elected officers:—

Charles Courter, President.
S. J. Thatcher, Clerk.
J. S. Pinder, Police Justice.
William Shafer, Treasurer.
David Lawyer, Collector.
James F. Blodgett, Street Commissioner.
John A. Segar, Police.
Anson R. Bell, Police.
Alonzo Douglass, Police.

The town of Cobleskill was formed at the same time as the County, but the limits were not defined until 1801. The first town meeting was held in May, 1795, when the ballots were deposited in a hat for the following officers:—

Supervisor:—

John Shaver.

Clerk:—

Jacob I. Cuyler.

Assessors:—

David Zea, David Schuyler, John Redington, Mathew Young, Henry Shafer.

Commissioners of Highways:—

George Wright, George Warner, Ephraim Young.

Overseers of the Poor:—

Christian Brown, Peter Shafer. ✓

Collectors:—

William Brown, Jacob Bouck.

Commissioners of Schools:—

John Punk, Sylvester Nash, David Schuyler.

SUPERVISORS.

The following is a list of the supervisors, with the date of their elections:—

1797—John H. Shaver.
1798—John H. Shaver.
1799—John H. Shaver.
1800—William Ferris.
1801—William Ferris.
1802—Henry Shafer.
1803—Henry Shafer.
1804—Henry Shafer.
1805—Henry Shafer.
1806—Henry Shafer.
1807—Henry Shafer.

1808—Henry Shafer.
 1809—Henry Shafer.
 1810—Henry Shafer.
 1811—Henry Shafer.
 1812—George Mann.
 1813—George Mann.
 1814—Henry Shafer.
 1815—Peter W. Snyder.
 1816—Philip Van Sternbergh.
 1817—Philip Van Sternbergh.
 1818—Philip Van Sternbergh.
 1819—Philip Van Sternbergh.
 1820—Henry Shafer.
 1821—Jonas Westover, Jr.
 1822—Jonas Westover, Jr.
 1823—Abram L. Lawyer.
 1824—Abram L. Lawyer.
 1825—Abram L. Lawyer.
 1826—John P. Bellinger.
 1827—John P. Bellinger.
 1828—John P. Bellinger.
 1829—Abram L. Lawyer.
 1830—Henry Shafer.
 1831—Henry Shafer.
 1832—John P. Bellinger.
 1833—John P. Bellinger.
 1834—Thomas Lawyer.
 1835—Peter W. Snyder.
 1836—Peter W. Snyder.
 1837—John H. Mumford.
 1838—John H. Mumford.
 1839—Thomas Smith.
 1840—Thomas Smith.
 1841—Charles Courter.
 1842—Charles Courter.
 1843—Jacob Russell.
 1844—John Westover.
 1845—John Westover.
 1846—David W. Lawyer.
 1847—Philip Mann.
 1848—Philip Mann.
 1849—John Brown.
 1850—John Brown.
 1851—Daniel Kilmer.
 1852—Abram A. Osterhout.
 1853—Abram A. Osterhout.
 1854—Daniel Shafer.
 1855—Daniel Shafer.
 1856—H. L. Russell.
 1857—Charles H. Shaver.

1858—Marcus Sternbergh.
 1859—Teunis Slingerland.
 1860—Asaph Roberts.
 1861—Harmon Becker.
 1862—Harmon Becker.
 1863—John Brown.
 1864—John Herron.
 1865—Daniel Shafer.
 1866—Daniel Shafer.
 1867—David Frasier.
 1868—David Frasier.
 1869—David Frasier.
 1870—Theodore Owen.
 1871—Charles Ryder.
 1872—Charles Ryder.
 1873—David B. Lawyer.
 1874—John J. Dickinson.
 1875—John J. Dickinson.
 1876—Peter Lawyer.
 1877—Peter Lawyer.*
 1878—David B. Lawyer.†
 1879—Peter Tingue.
 1880—William Shafer.
 1881—William Shafer.
 1882—William Shafer.

In 1846 when the County Court House was burned, the inhabitants of Cobleskill took active measures to remove the site to the village of Cobleskill, and elected Hon. Thomas Smith to the Legislature to engineer a bill through the House to that effect. He was unsuccessful and the new building was placed on the old site. Upon the burning of the building in 1870, renewed efforts were made to accomplish the removal. The grounds upon which the Hotel Augustan stands, were then strewn with the debris of the conflagration of that year and the citizens of the village agreed to donate that as a site and also erect a court house at their own expense, without incurring any upon the County. The provisions of the statutes were such as to make a removal, yet the citizens of Schoharie village to ensure the buildings being placed there made a like offer of building without cost to the County and the Board of Supervisors voted to accept their proposals. Being thus foiled two times in an attempt to make Cobleskill the

* Deceased.

† Elected at special election.

county-seat, differences arose in the Board of Supervisors and the citizens of the several towns in the year 1881, on the equalization of towns, in which Schoharie and Esperance were the aggrieved parties. Another effort was made in that year to remove the site to Cobleskill and Middleburgh. A preamble and resolution was read before the board by William Shafer, the Supervisor of Cobleskill, which was as follows:—

WHEREAS, In the opinion and judgment of the Supervisors of the several towns composing the County of Schoharie, hereby expressed at the annual meeting and session of the "Board of Supervisors of Schoharie County," for the year 1881, that the public convenience, and best interests of a large majority of the citizens, and particularly of taxpayers of said County, and of the various towns of said County, will be best promoted and secured by a change of the present site and location of the County Court House, County Judge and Surrogate's Office, County Clerk's Office, and of the Common Jail of said County, from the village and town of Schoharie, elsewhere, therefore,

Resolved, That under the provisions, and in the proper exercise of the power conferred and vested in Boards of Supervisors by the provisions of Sections one, two and five, of Chapter 482, of the Laws of 1875, entitled "An act to confer on Boards of Supervisors further power of local legislation and administration, and to regulate the compensation of Supervisors, passed June 5th, 1875, the present site and location of the County buildings of the County of Schoharie, being the County Court House, County Judge and Surrogate's Office, County Clerk's Office, and the Common Jail of Schoharie County is hereby removed from the village and town of Schoharie, in the County of Schoharie.

Resolved, That the village of Middleburgh, in the town of Middleburgh, and the village of Cobleskill, in the town of Cobleskill, in said County of Schoharie, be, and the same are hereby fixed, designated, and established as half-shire towns in said County of Schoharie, for the location and site of the County buildings of the County of Schoharie, being a County Court House, a County Judge and Surrogate's Office,

County Clerk's Office, and a Common Jail for the use of the County of Schoharie.

Resolved, That the present County buildings, known as the County Court House, in which is located and fixed the office of County Judge and Surrogate, and the office of the County Clerk, together with the Common Jail of Schoharie County, with all the material composing the same, and all the fixtures, furniture and property therein belonging to said County, may be taken and removed from the village and town of Schoharie, into the village and town of Middleburgh, there to be re-erected and re-constructed into such buildings, and used therein for the use of the County of Schoharie, but without charge, cost or expense to said County of Schoharie, or any of the towns of said County, or of the tax-payers therein, except such sums as shall be voluntarily contributed therefor.

Resolved, That the citizens of the village and town of Cobleskill, Schoharie County, are hereby authorized and empowered to erect and construct suitable and proper buildings to be used and appropriated to the free use of the County of Schoharie as a County Court House, a County Judge and Surrogate's Office, a County Clerk's Office, and a Common Jail for the County of Schoharie, upon the express condition that the same shall be without cost, charge or expense to said County, or of any of the towns of said County, or of the tax-payers of said town or county, except such sums as shall be voluntarily contributed by them therefor.

Resolved, That for the purpose of carrying into effect the object and intention of the foregoing resolution, William Shafer, of Cobleskill, Hadley Snyder, of Middleburgh, Henry C. Lyker, of Sharon, Marcus Zeh, of Fulton, and Moses S. Wilcox, of Jefferson, be and they are hereby authorized, appointed and empowered a committee to serve without expense to the County of Schoharie for such purpose.

Resolved, That Hon. Addison P. Jones, as Senator elect, and Hon. Edwin D. Hager, as Member of Assembly elect in the Legislature of 1882, be, and they each are hereby earnestly, yet respectfully requested and solicited, by all

proper methods and means of legislation, to favor and procure the passage of all needed and appropriate laws, if any are required, for the purpose of giving full force and effect to the provisions, object and intent of the foregoing preamble and resolutions.

Resolved, That the Clerk of this Board be, and he is hereby directed to prepare and furnish to our Senator and Member of the Assembly elect, a certified copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions.

The resolution was passed by twelve voting for and three against, the latter being the representatives of Schoharie, Esperance and Wright.

The matter was to be left to the people, at the ensuing town meetings, but Middleburgh through a town meeting of her citizens, refused to raise the required amount to remove the building and the matter dropped entirely, and was chaffed by electors in general as being foolish and illegal.

In 1813 the Legislature described the boundaries of the town as follows:—

“And all that part of said county of Schoharie bounded by a line beginning at the north-west corner of the town of Jefferson, and running thence northerly along the bounds of the county until it intersects a line described in the following manner, viz:—Running from the westerly corner of the dwelling house of John Reddington in a direct line to the westerly corner of the dwelling house now or late of Peter Bogardus, thence in a straight line to the northerly corner of the dwelling house now or late of Joseph Webb, thence in a direct line to the westerly corner of the dwelling house now or late of Nicholas Smith, thence southwesterly to the nearest point in the division line between the counties of Schoharie and Otsego, thence northeasterly along the line so intersected to the southwest corner of the town of Carlisle, thence along the south bounds of Carlisle to the west line of the town of Schoharie, thence along the west line of the town of Schoharie and Middleburgh to the north bounds of the town of Jefferson, and thence along the said north bounds to the place of beginning, shall be and continue a town by the name of Cobelskill.



Chas Holmes

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

JUDGE CHARLES HOLMES.

The subject of this brief sketch was born in the town of Fulton, Schoharie County, N. Y., March 26, 1826, then being the third, but only surviving child of the late Hannah and James Holmes, Jr. His paternal grandfather, James Holmes, was a native of New Jersey, and a soldier in the War of the Revolution, after the termination of which, he married Miss Mercy Hunt, also a native of that State. About the year 1801 they settled near the location of the Union church, on what is still known as "Sapbush Hill," in the immediate neighborhood of which Judge Holmes was born and passed his childhood years. His maternal ancestors, John Spickerman, and Mary, his wife, (whose maiden name was Decker,) were natives of Columbia county, in this State, and among the early settlers of that part of Fulton known as "Rossman Hill," near which many of their descendants still reside.

His grandfather Spickerman was also a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and his father a soldier in the War of 1812-1815, which may in some degree account for the martial spirit and passion for military excitement and display, which was a prominent characteristic of his younger days. At the early age of nineteen years he was elected and duly commissioned as

Captain of a militia company by Governor Silas Wright, and continued to serve as such until the re-organization of the military system of the State. He was afterwards selected, commissioned, and for several years served as Quartermaster of the 108th Regiment of the "National Guard of the State of New York," on the staff of Colonels Wakefield and Ferguson, and until the Regiment was mustered out of service, by a reduction of the National Guard.

His father died in 1837, leaving him as the eldest of six surviving children, under the supervision of his excellent widowed mother, to assist in caring for and looking after their welfare, and the management of a small farm, left to them for support.

In early life he evinced an earnest desire and ambition for the acquisition of general knowledge, and more especially for the profession in which he afterwards became an active member, until his promotion to the Bench, in his native County. Being left an orphan at the early age of eleven years without patrimony or the means or facilities for obtaining a better, or more liberal education, he was compelled to content himself with self-improvement and the poor advantages afforded by the common school of the neighborhood in which his early life was passed.

This was his *Alma Mater*, except for one term in the "Jefferson Academy," and another in a "Select School" at Richmondville, in his native County, where he sought to improve and add to the little store of coveted knowledge, acquired by him under so many adverse and discouraging circumstances.

In 1846, he married Miss Sarah Baird, of Richmondville, daughter of Jacob, and Lydia Baird, *nee* Phillips. Of the fruit of such union, five children still survive, the youngest, Wellington J., having died when a little more than two years of age. Of the remaining children, the eldest, Demosthenes I. Holmes now resides in the city of New York, being married, and an Assistant Deputy of the County Clerk, which position he has satisfactorily filled, for more than five years. The maiden name of his wife was Carluta E. Coy, of New York City. The second, Lewis C. Holmes, an attorney and counselor at law, is present clerk in the Surrogate Court of Schoharie County, and resides in Cobleskill village, where he married his wife, Miss Helen Courter. The next, was their only daughter, Mary Adelaide, who married Dr. James E. Allen, of Schenectady, (now deceased) the issue of such marriage being the only surviving grandchild, Addie Emerson Allen, a sprightly, favorite pet of all who know her, now being in the fifth year of her age, and residing with her mother, at the parental home in Cobleskill village. The next is their son Charles H. Holmes, who is also an attorney and counselor at law, residing and practicing his profession in Cobleskill, where he married Miss Hattie Ottman. The remaining, and youngest surviving child, Lyman S. Holmes, has also chosen the profession of his father, is unmarried, and a member of the law firm of "Thorne & Holmes" at Middleburgh, Schoharie County, as successors of "Sanford & Thorne."

Judge Holmes began the study of his profession, subsequent to his marriage, at Cobles-

kill village. He entered the law office of the late Demosthenes Lawyer, then County Judge, and *ex-officio* Surrogate of Schoharie County, in January, 1849, and was admitted as an attorney and counselor at law, in September, 1852.

It was during the period of his clerkship in the office of his preceptor, Judge Lawyer, while a student, enjoying the advantages derived from his varied experience in the formal proceedings and practical administration of the laws as applicable to Surrogate Courts, that he became so eminently fitted for the correct and careful discharge of the difficult and responsible duties involved in this most important branch of our judicial system.

In November, 1855, he was elected Member of Assembly from Schoharie County, and although less than thirty years of age, when he took his seat, he soon became an active and efficient member of that branch of the Legislature. He was exceedingly popular among his associates, and acquitted himself with great credit, in the successful management, and in procuring the passage through the Assembly of the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad town bonding bill. Although with a single exception, he was the youngest member of the House, he was appointed a member of the Judiciary Committee, served on several special committees, and near the close of the session, without his previous knowledge or solicitation, was appointed a member of the "Select Committee," to perfect and forward all bills and measures, meriting and deserving special legislative action.

After the close of his legislative term, he resumed the practice of his profession at Cobleskill village, in the various courts of this State, and upon his subsequent admission to practice as attorney and as counselor in the Circuit and District Courts of the United States, formed a special partnership with the late William H. Young, of Cobleskill, in bankruptcy cases.

In the fall of 1871, he was unanimously

nominated by the Democrats of Schoharie County, for the office of County Judge, who in this County is also *ex-officio* the Surrogate of the County, to which office he was elected by his full party majority. In the fall of 1877, he was unanimously renominated to the same position, and at the Republican County Convention held a few days subsequent to his renomination, a commendatory resolution of approval of his official course was adopted, accompanied by a resolution not to make any nomination for that position—which resulted in his unanimous re-election, by a vote largely in excess of the vote polled by his party at that election.

Politically, Judge Holmes has always been recognized at home and abroad, as one of the most firm and reliable members of the class of politicians who enjoy and rejoice in the proud appellation of "Schoharie Democrats."

Prior to his election to his present judicial position, he was an earnest, active, local politician, was frequently a delegate to County and State Conventions; was for over ten years chairman of the County committee, and in 1881, was without his desire, elected a member of the Democratic State Committee, and by that body made a member of its executive committee.

Personally, he is known as frank and outspoken in respect to all issues in which he feels and takes an interest, or becomes interested, either for himself or his friends, apparently being more zealous in serving others, than in doing for himself. He is bold and fearless in waging his contests, is never influenced by motives of policy alone, to court or receive public approval from superior numbers, against his sense of justice and right, in a war against injustice and wrong. He is apparently most happy in serving the indigent, oppressed, and defenceless, against the cupidity and rapacity of the covetous and avaricious, whose greed is for

gold. In short, he abhors and detests every one whose sycophantic servility makes them time-servers for personal preferment, or advantage, and turns with disgust and disdain from the hypocritical pretenders, who would sacrifice principle and betray friends, to accomplish personal ends, and gain a temporary local popularity.

Socially, he is among the number who delight in contributing to the happiness and pleasure of all, instead of striving to monopolize all the homage and attentions that by the self-conceited are exacted as their exclusive privileges and prerogatives. To his friends, he is ever faithful and sincerely devoted, as well in adversity as in prosperity, and never fails to face his foes. He never displays a flag of truce while the contest is waged against him, or the friends, or cause for which he has enlisted. And finally, he has never yet been known to forsake a friend, or forget an enemy.

JEDEDIAH MILLER.

Jedediah Miller was born in the town of Middleborough, Plymouth county, Mass., on the 16th day of June, 1782, and was a descendant in the line of his mother, (who was a Howland,) of the Pilgrims who landed from the Mayflower.

Mr. Miller was a classmate of Daniel Webster in Dartmouth college, from which he graduated in August, 1805. With the intention of beginning an active life, he started in May, 1806, for Geneva, N. Y., then considered a far off Western town. Reaching Schoharie village, and desiring to visit an old college associate, Isaac Hall Tiffany, he set out for Lawyersville. Arriving at the river west of the village, he was rowed across the stream by a negress and found

the road leading to Cobleskill obstructed by gates and bars, which undoubtedly gave to him a poor impression of the liberality of the people and of the freedom vouchsafed to

travelers, and which led him in after years to procure a reprimand from the Grand Jury. He arrived at Lawyerville in the month of May, and intended to spend but a few days with Judge

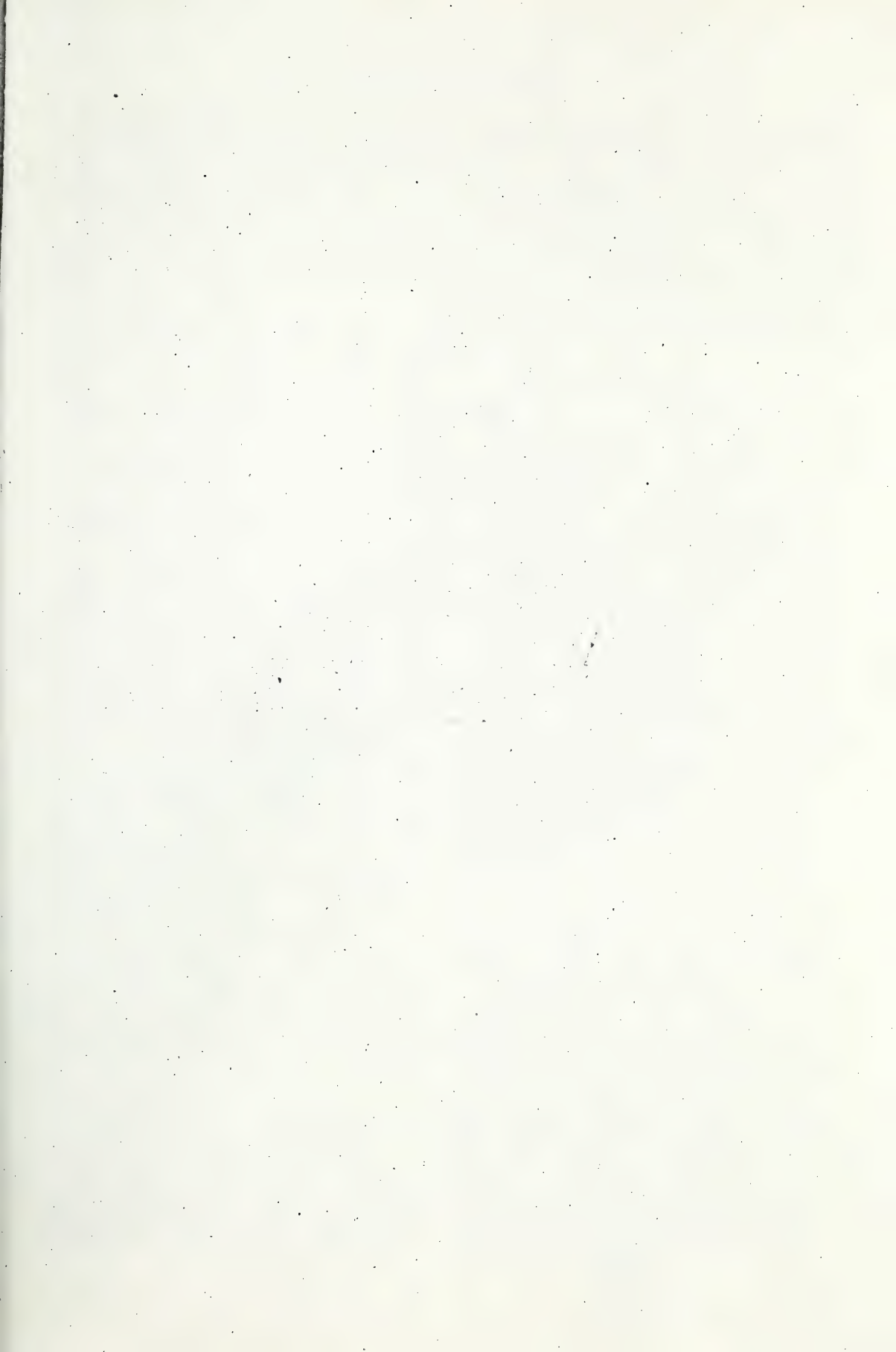


Josiah Miller

Tiffany, and then continue his journey. Tiffany and Miller were in college together, the former being a senior and the latter a freshman, and a strong attachment had arisen up between them that did not lessen as long as they lived.

Mr. Miller was induced to forego his journey and take charge of the school and commenced the study of law with Judge Tiffany. He was admitted to practice in 1809, and at once rose to the front rank in his profession, particularly as an advocate. He possessed talents of a high order, and during his long residence in the County, although a Yankee, he had a strong

hold in the confidence of the Germans as well as the entire community. In 1819 and 1820, he was elected to the Assembly as a Clintonian Democrat, at that time called 'Republican,' and earnestly advocated internal improvements by taxation, under strict rules of economy, and gave an exhibition of his broad ideas of government and its destined resources, in several speeches before those bodies. He was elected again in 1832 by the Whig party, and in 1838, when the formation of the town of Seward was in controversy, he became a candidate for this same position and was successful in his elec-





Yours truly
J. H. Ramsey

tion, but was unable to get his "Seward bill" passed, as his home opponents crowded numerous petitions before the body to defeat him, yet having set out to carry his point, he did so in the course of time, and gave to the territory its present name in honor of the then acting Governor.

Mr. Miller avoided political preferment and enjoyed himself most in the tranquility of his home. Of him, Mr. J. H. Ramsey says:—"Mr. Miller in his social habits was in some respects eccentric, but he possessed a peculiar charm in conversation and his varied and extensive knowledge, made him a very instructive and agreeable companion. He was a warm-hearted and enduring friend and always temperate and economical in his habits. In public affairs he exhibited a lively interest to the last. Although weak and feeble he made frequent enquiries as to public matters, and when told a short time before his death, the prospect was that the Southern Rebellion would be put down and the Union preserved, he exclaimed with deep emotion, 'God be praised I can die in peace.'

"He had his eccentricities, which to some may have appeared to be faults, while on the other hand, he possessed many virtues and extraordinary powers of mind. Take him all in all as was said of him by an intimate friend writing his obituary

'We ne'er shall look upon his like again.'"

Upon the tombstone is inscribed "The old man eloquent." At the time of this writing it is not known that he has a living descendant or relative by the ties of consanguinity.

HON. JOSEPH H. RAMSEY.

Of the many students of Jedediah Miller, the most prominent is the Hon. Joseph H. Ramsey, of Albany. Mr. Ramsey being so closely iden-

tified with the building of the Susquehanna Railroad, in which he exhibited the business tact and indomitable perseverance of one reared in the manipulations of public enterprises, we cannot give a concise account of his career without referring at some length to, and giving a minute history of the Railroad, or rather, the struggles of the friends of the road in building the same.

In doing so the writer would have preferred to have entered the same in Chapter IV, of this work, but at the time of compiling that portion, it was thought that space could not be given to the details of the enterprise, and therefore the simple outlines of it were recorded.

Joseph Henry Ramsey was born on the 29th of January, 1816, in the town of Sharon, of German and English descent. He studied law with Jedediah Miller and was admitted to practice in all the courts of the State in 1840. He commenced practice and continued in the office of Mr. Miller for several years and succeeded to his practice. After that Mr. Ramsey established an office of his own at Lawyersville and continued the practice of law and in business connected with the building of the Albany & Susquehanna railroad until he removed to Albany City in 1863. In the fall of 1854, he was elected from the Northern, and Wilkinson Wilsey from the Southern Assembly District of the county, as Whigs and served during the session of 1855, the last year Schoharie was represented in the Assembly by two members.

He was a delegate from Schoharie to the Whig State convention in the fall of 1855, and a member also of the joint convention composed of the members of the Whig convention and a State convention of free-soil Democrats which formed the Republican party in this State. This was followed by his election to the State Senate the same year as a Republican from the 17th Senatorial District comprising the counties of Schoharie and Delaware.

The election of Mr. Ramsey by a constituency, a majority of whom were politically opposed to him, was to quite an extent owing to the strong feeling of a portion of his constituents in the success of the railroad, of which he was an ardent advocate and they expected he would succeed in obtaining necessary Legislation to promote its success. It was not strange that such a feeling should exist, as the region to be penetrated by the road was known as the "Sequestered region"—having no outlet—either by water navigation or rail, nothing but the old wagon roads. In this connection we will state that the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad company was first organized in 1852, and individual stock subscribed along the line and at Albany to more than a million dollars. An act was also passed the same year authorizing the city of Albany to loan the company, on certain conditions another million dollars of its bonds. In the summer of 1853, a contract was made by the company with Morris, Miller, Baker & Co. then supposed to be the strong parties—financially, to build the entire road, the railroad company agreeing to turn over to the contractors the avails of the individual subscriptions and the city bonds, as the work progressed and the balance to complete the road in the bonds of the company.

The work was commenced in the spring of 1853, at different points in Albany, Schoharie, Otsego and Broome counties and progressed for a few months, when an unexpected revolution occurred in railroad affairs, rendering it difficult, if not impossible to negotiate railroad bonds to the extent required to complete the road. This caused the contractors to suspend the work, and it then became evident, unless some way could be devised to increase the stock basis of the company, the project must fail, as it was not possible to compel contractors to perform a work of such magnitude in such times. It was at this crisis, that Mr. Ramsey

was called in to consult with the directors as to what course to pursue—take measures to wind up the affairs of the company and abandon the project as a failure, or devise some means of increasing the stock basis or capital of the company and keep the project alive until there was a change of times. Although Mr. Ramsey had before taken part in meetings held to obtain individual subscriptions and was one of the original subscribers to the articles of association, he had not been identified with the company as an officer or director. It was suggested that town subscriptions had been used with success in several cases, and as it was believed impossible at that time to obtain further individual subscriptions to the extent required, Mr. Ramsey was urged to examine the matter and ascertain the prospect of raising means by the use of town bonds. He consented and after examination ascertained that other roads had built with the aid of such bonds and made a success; while on the other hand in many other cases, attempts had been made to use them which had resulted in failure. This rendered the expedient doubtful, and several of the directors thought the risk too great to make the experiment. After some conflict and considerable deliberation, the directors rather than have the project fail and as a last resort, resolved to apply to the Legislature for a law authorizing the towns to subscribe to the stock and issue their bonds in payment, and in that way ascertain whether the people of the towns were disposed to aid or not. Mr. Ramsey was then made a candidate for the Assembly and afterwards for the Senate and elected as stated.

He prepared and introduced a bill in the Assembly for that purpose, when it was discovered there was strong and active opposition to it in Albany. Many of those who had subscribed to the stock had lost confidence in the enterprise, owing more than anything else to the failure of the Northern road, mostly built

by Albany capital, and to save paying their subscriptions and the city from the issue of its bonds, wanted the project defeated.

The bill however passed the Assembly that year, but was defeated in the Senate by the determined opposition of the citizens of Albany, except that portion of the act extending the time to complete the road. The next year, Mr. Ramsey having in the meantime been elected to the Senate, introduced the bill in that body, and after encountering a vigorous opposition from the same source, it finally passed both branches of the House and became a law, although the opponents followed the bill into Governor King's chamber, who after hearing them without hearing the other side, signed the bill in their presence.

The law was not, however, in form to make it entirely practical, as the original bill had been amended to require the consent in writing, before a subscription could be made, of two-thirds of the tax-payers, representing two-thirds of the taxable property of the town, which in several towns was difficult to obtain. The next session, 1857, the act was amended as originally drafted, which required the consent of only a majority. Several of the towns in the meantime had subscribed under the two-thirds act, and with the subscriptions obtained under the act as amended, another million of dollars was added to the stock basis of the company. The consent of the taxpayers in the several towns was not obtained without considerable effort on the part of the friends of the road. Many honestly opposed the subscriptions as wrong in principle, and believed the project would be a failure with them.

After spending considerable time in holding meetings along the line, and of personal exertions in the several towns in obtaining subscriptions, Mr. Ramsey was elected a director, and made Vice-President of the company in 1858. In consequence of the opposition, several of the towns in Schoharie,

and one in Otsego, commenced legal proceedings and obtained temporary injunctions to prevent the towns from issuing their bonds on the ground, among others, that the law was unconstitutional. These, with other actions commenced by the company to collect individual subscriptions, continued litigation for several years, and several of the cases were taken to the Court of Appeals. The company finally succeeded in all the litigations. It became apparent that if a portion of the line could be put in operation it would materially strengthen the company, and in the end ensure the completion of the road. With that view, the work of grading between Albany and Schoharie was let, and the individual subscriptions as far as they could be collected, were used for that purpose. The stockholders of Otsego and further west, objected to paying until the work was resumed in that vicinity—which, with the Albany opposition and other obstacles, delayed the work until the validity of the town subscriptions were settled, when an arrangement was made by which ten per cent. of the town subscriptions in Otsego, and all of the Schoharie towns, were to be applied to the opening of the road from Albany to Schoharie creek.

While the struggle was going on, the people along the line became impressed with the idea, that they were then and had been for a long time, taxed for the State Canals and for aid to the Erie and other roads in different parts of the State, and that it would be just and right for the State to aid the "sequestered region" in return. This sentiment became so strong that petitions were numerously signed and presented to the Legislature of 1859, for State aid. The justice and equity of the case appealed with such force to that body, that upon the first application, a bill passed both branches appropriating two hundred thousand dollars to complete that portion of the road between Albany and Schoharie. That bill was vetoed by Governor Mor-

gan, and failed to become a law. That led again to the nomination of Mr. Ramsey in the fall of 1859, for Senator, in the then 14th Senatorial District, comprising the counties of his old district, with Schenectady added. He was elected by a decided majority, and at the next session of 1860, presented another bill appropriating one million of dollars, to be paid in installments of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars each, as the work progressed, until the road was completed to Binghamton. This bill also passed the Legislature, and failed to become a law by another veto of Governor Morgan. At the next session of 1861, Mr. Ramsey presented another bill cutting down the amount to half a million of dollars, for that portion of the road between Albany and Oneonta, supposing that would make it more acceptable to the Governor. This also passed the Legislature, and was again vetoed by Governor Morgan. Mr. Ramsey was again nominated and elected for the third time to the Senate in the fall of 1861, and at the session of 1862 presented another bill and the Legislature passed it, appropriating the same amount of the year previous, but it received the fourth and last veto of Governor Morgan. In each year the bills were passed over the veto and defeated in the Assembly by executive influence.

In the fall of that year Gov. Seymour was elected, and at the next session, in 1863, Mr. Ramsey presented a bill appropriating the same amount, and for the same portion of the road that Gov. Morgan, the two years previous, vetoed. The bill was again promptly passed and as promptly signed by Gov. Seymour, and became a law, and thus in part was the "sequestered region" remunerated for taxes paid for improvements before that time in other parts of the State.

That appropriation imparted new life and vigor to the enterprise, so that the road was opened for business to Schoharie Creek in Sep-

tember of the same year. In the meantime Mr. E. P. Prentice, an elderly gentleman of Albany, held the office of President of the company, while most of the labor of the position devolved upon Mr. Ramsey. That or some other cause induced Mr. Prentice to resign early in the spring of 1864, the Presidency, against the earnest protest of Mr. Ramsey and others. The place remained vacant several months, the duties being performed by the Vice-President, when Mr. Ramsey finally consented, and he was unanimously elected President of the Company.

About this time an important negotiation was concluded with the late Daniel Drew, of New York, by which he agreed to take one million dollars of the first bonds of the company. The work beyond Schoharie was continued as fast as practicable, the war having occasioned an inflation of the currency, and prices of labor and material had largely advanced. Common labor, which had been from eighty cents to a dollar, in the construction of the road to Schoharie, had increased from one dollar and a half to two dollars per day, and iron with other material about double the former cost. This made it necessary to proceed with great caution and economy, notwithstanding the promise of State aid and the negotiation of the one million dollars, company bonds. The heavy and expensive work through Schoharie created delay, so that the road was not put in operation to Oneonta until the summer of 1865. The balance of the road to Binghamton, about sixty miles, included a tunnel of 2260 feet in length, and other heavy work in Broome county. With the increase in cost of labor and materials there remained much less means to complete the road than the Company had calculated upon.

An application was therefore made to the Legislature of 1866 for the remaining half million of dollars, included in the second bill, to aid in completing the road. The Legislature again admitted the justice of the bill and promptly

passed it, appropriating the amount for that purpose.

Another veto was interposed, however, by Governor Fenton, and the bill failed. The next year, at the session of 1867, the application was renewed for an appropriation of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for that portion of the road between Oneonta and Harpersville, with the understanding that at the next session, (1868) another application would be made for the balance, two hundred and fifty thousand.

This bill was signed by Gov. Fenton, and it was understood that he would sign another bill for a like amount to complete the road, the next session, if passed by the Legislature.

The bill for the last installment promptly passed, but to the surprise of its friends, was vetoed, again, by Gov. Fenton.

This was a great disappointment, the Company believing there was no doubt the remaining appropriation would be made by the next session, the balance of the work was let to complete the road to Binghamton. This made it necessary to raise the money in some other way, and they were obliged to submit to a large sacrifice on their own bonds for that purpose. The price of common labor still increased from two dollars to two and one half per day, and made the work very expensive, and the company was compelled to increase the pay of the contractors. After encountering many obstacles and with great exertion, the company opened the road to Binghamton in January 1869.

It was ascertained a short time after that event that the Erie road managers desired to make it an appendage to that road, and that efforts were being made by Jay Gould, James Fisk, Jr., and their associates to purchase a majority of the stock. In this attempt they failed, but claimed they had a majority and without waiting for an election, commenced an action and obtained an order from the late Judge Barnard, of New York, suspending Mr. Ramsey from

acting as President, with a view of obtaining the possession of the road before the time of the election of directors. The effect of the order was a virtual transfer of the road and property of the Company to Gould and Fisk, without giving the Company or Mr. Ramsey an opportunity to defend. The late Judge Peckham, of Albany, made another order modifying the order of Barnard, so as to give the defendants an opportunity of being heard. Judge Peckham's order was disregarded, and an attempt was made by Gould and Fisk to take possession of the road by force, and for that purpose Fisk appeared at Albany with men and attempted to enter and take possession of the office of the President and other offices of the Company, but was resisted and obliged to retreat. The plan of operation was then changed, and the Erie forces, comprising from 1,500 to 2,000 employes, from different parts of the Erie road, were ordered to take forcible possession of the road, commencing at the Binghamton end. This move on their part created intense excitement at Albany and along the line, and even extended throughout the State. Car loads of excited men volunteered to prevent the outrage, and a civil war was threatened. The forces met near the tunnel, seventeen miles from Binghamton, and Gould attempted to run an Erie locomotive to Albany with employes of the Erie to take possession of the depots along the road. He was prevented by Mr. Robert C. Blackall, master mechanic of the A. & S., and his men, and the Erie engine captured. The engine was sent to Albany and the Erie employes in charge were parolled by Mr. Blackall.

The forces on each side having congregated at and near the tunnel, were in a threatening attitude and liable to come in collision at any moment. At this time an arrangement was made to place the road and the property of the company in the hands of a receiver, and an action was commenced in the name of the people

of the State by the Attorney-General to settle the question, by an election of directors by the stock-holders, and thus determine the rights of the parties to the possession of the road.

An election was held at the time of the annual meeting for that purpose, at the Company's office, in Albany, on the first Tuesday in September, 1870. Near the time for organizing the meeting and opening the polls, Mr. Ramsey, as President, and Mr. Phelps, as Treasurer and Secretary, were enjoined by another order of Judge Barnard from taking any part in the election. The Gould and Fisk party had in attendance a crowd of workmen and other persons, with a proxy of one share each to fill up the room and prevent the regular election from being held. In this they failed, the regular election was held, and the regular inspectors declared the Ramsey electors, as they were called, duly elected by those holding a decided majority of the stock. The Gould party also held an election, and claimed to have elected their ticket, headed by Walter Church, of Albany.

The place of trial in the action commenced by the Attorney-General, was in the Seventh Judicial District, the main issue being, which set of directors had been duly elected and entitled to the possession of the road. The case came on to be tried before Hon. E. Darwin Smith, one of the Supreme Court Judges, in the city of Rochester, in November of the same year. The trial continued over two weeks and the latter part of December following, Judge Smith decided in favor of the Ramsey directors, that their election was legal and valid, and that of the Church directors was illegal, fraudulent and void.

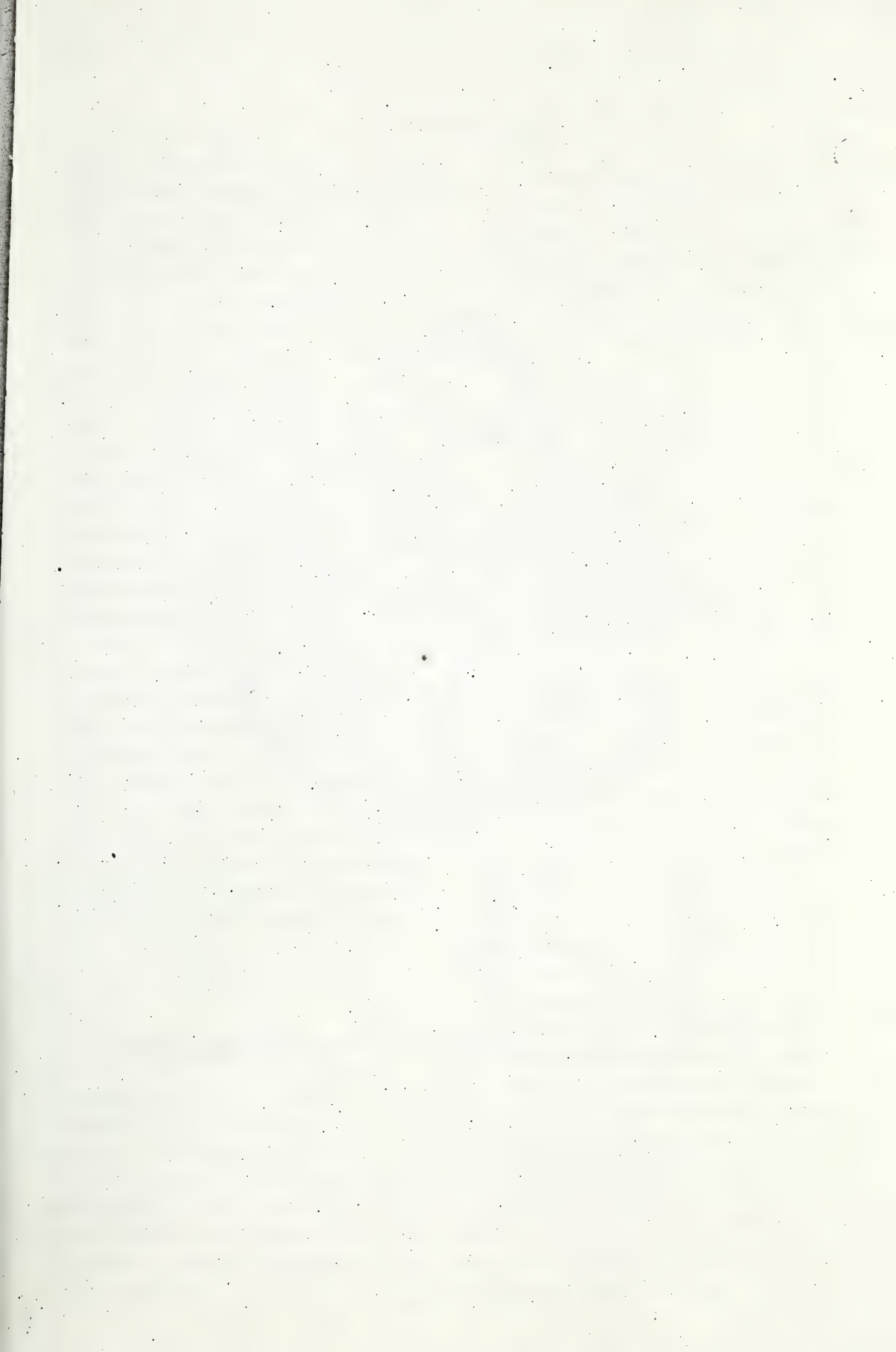
That decision restored the possession of the Ramsey directors and the Receiver, Robert Lenox Banks, was discharged, and they went into possession of the road again the first of January, 1871.

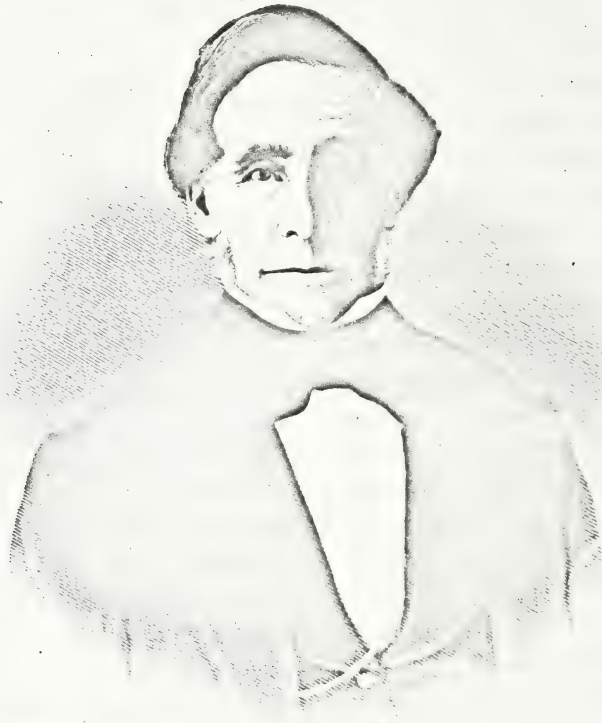
The difficulty created an uneasy state of

feeling among the stockholders, and a fear of farther troubles, which led to a proposition on the part of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company, to lease the road. The proposal was accepted and the lease was executed in March following by the Albany & Susquehanna Company, by which the stockholders of that Company were to receive seven per cent. in semi-annual dividends on their stock, and the Canal Company assume the payment of the principal and interest of the bonded debt of the leased road; the case being in effect, a sale of the road and its franchises to the Canal Company. Mr. Ramsey and others of the directors, would have preferred not to lease the road, but to have kept it, independent of any coal or other Company, dealing liberally with all of them, with a view of concentrating upon the line the largest amount of business, and having the people along the line reap the benefit of the competition among the different coal companies, instead of being controlled by one Company. The stockholders were nearly, or quite unanimous in favor of the lease, and the road went into the control and possession of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company, and has been operated by it since. After the lease, Mr. Coe F. Young, the general manager of the Canal Company, was elected President of the road, in place of Mr. Ramsey.

As a financial success up to the time of this writing, there are but few roads in the State that have been more fortunate. The stockholders have never been sold out. The towns that have sold their stock, realized a par value for it, and the stock is now quoted in New York, as high as thirty-five per cent. premium.

In the mean time, Mr. Ramsey was elected Vice-President of the Albany Iron Manufacturing Company, and after the death of Hon. Erastus Corning, was elected President in his stead, and remained in that position during the building of the furnaces belonging to the Com-





Thomas Sawyer

pany in Albany City, and after that resigned. He was also President of and assisted in the organization of the New York & Albany Railroad Company, and is President of the Howe's Cave Association, in the manufacture of cement, lime and brick. In public life, Mr. Ramsey was also nominated as a candidate for Congress in 1866, in the then Albany and Schoharie district. He received a majority of about eight hundred in Albany, and was defeated by a large majority against him in Schoharie.

He was a delegate from Albany to the Republican State Convention, in the years 1871, 1872 and 1873, and also a member of the Republican State Committee, and was most active in the proceedings to impeach Judge Barnard, who made the order in favor of Gould and Fisk, in the controversy referred to previously. For the orders in that case, and others of similar character, Judge Barnard was tried by the Senate and impeached, and prohibited from holding any office under the civil Government. He has since died.

Mr. Ramsey removed to Albany, in 1863, which was rendered necessary in consequence of his railroad duties, but usually spends the summer months at Howe's Cave, in Schoharie, and in several respects prefers to consider that his residence, as well as the County of his birth.

THOMAS LAWYER.

Thomas Lawyer was a grandson of Jacob Frederick Lawyer, of the "Beller place" near Schoharie village, son of Johannes Lawyer, (the third large land-holder.) Of General Lawyer we will copy an article written by one of the younger members of the County bar, after his death which occurred at Lawyerville on the 21st of May, 1868:—

"The deceased, during the course of the long and honorable life just closed, had occupied so many places of public trust and responsibility, had gained such a hold upon the affections and memories of the present generation, that it is deemed fit and appropriate that something more than a simple mention of his death, is due to his memory.

"It is only regretted, that to one of his professional and official contemporaries, or to some person more familiar with the public life and services of the deceased and more competent to express in an appropriate manner his many virtues and noble characteristics, has not been confided this delicate, yet pleasant duty. A plain, simple presentation of *some* of the many good things that could truthfully be said of him, is all that will be attempted, or can be given in this article.

"The subject of this memoir was born in the town of Schoharie, in the County of Schoharie, N. Y., on the 14th day of October, 1785, on the farm now occupied by John G. Gebhard. His ancestors emigrated to this country from Germany, and were among the early settlers of the Schoharie valley. After receiving a liberal education for the period in which his early life was spent, he commenced the study of law in the office of George Tiffany, at Schoharie, who subsequently removed to Canada. At the age of twenty-one years, he was duly licensed to practice as an Attorney, and located at Lawyerville, which bears his name, succeeding the late Isaac Hall Tiffany, then a prominent lawyer. He was subsequently licensed as Counselor of the Supreme Court, as Counselor and Solicitor in Chancery, and in the U. S. Court for the Northern District of New York.

He loved the profession he had chosen, was an honorable, accomplished and successful practitioner, established and continued a successful and lucrative practice in his profession until the adoption of the "Code" in this State. He then

retired to private life, and the quiet enjoyment of the ample fortune he had accumulated, beloved, respected and revered by all who knew him, as "an honest man, the noblest work of God."

"He held the office of Loan Commissioner in this County for several years, and a commission as Brigadier-General in the militia of this State, by which title he was ever after so familiarly known. He was twice elected a Member of the Assembly from this County, serving his first term under the First Constitution of this State, in the 39th session of the Legislature in 1816, during the administration of Governor Daniel D. Tompkins. The late lamented ex-Governor William C. Bouck, his kinsman and intimate personal and political friend then serving his third term, and Peter A. Hilton then serving his second term in the Assembly, were his colleagues. It has been often remarked of General Lawyer, that he was emphatically "a business member of the House"—that he never seemed anxious to establish a reputation by a simple display of powers of oratory, thus often vexing the ear of his associates with ill-timed, tedious and unnecessary debate. He preferred, without ostentation, in his usually quiet and unobtrusive manner, to so discharge the responsible duties of his position, as to merit the approbation of his associates and constituents, as an active, practical, useful legislator. Instead of seeking to fill the public eye by greater display, thus gaining an ephemeral distinction, by winning the applause of his listening auditors, or from the editors and readers of the journals of the day, he seemed only ambitious by the exercise of a manly firmness, patriotic courage, and integrity of purpose, to serve his country and his party in the enactment of wise and salutary laws. How well he succeeded, and how wisely he acted in choosing the proper and direct path to higher honors, future personal distinction and political preferment, is evidenced by his further triumphant march in his political career.

"At the next general election he was elected a member of the 15th Congress, from the 13th District of this State as organized under the Act of June 10, 1812, composed of the counties of Schenectady and Schoharie. He served from March 4, 1817, to March 3, 1819, during the first two years of the term of James Monroe as President, and Daniel D. Tompkins as Vice-President of the United States.

"As a Member of Congress he maintained and enhanced the previous enviable reputation he had gained as a Member of the Legislature of his State, always promptly performing his duties with fidelity to his country, and party, thus meriting and receiving the approval, confidence and gratitude of his constituents. Here, as in the lower walks of his legislative life, he manifested those qualities that enabled him to render to his country a service if not of the most brilliant kind, at least of no secondary importance.

"Under the second Constitution of this State, he was appointed District Attorney of this County, February 4, 1822, holding the office until October 11, 1831, when the late Jacob Houck, Jr., succeeded him.

"During this period occurred the exciting political contest for President of the United States for the tenth Presidential term, in which Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, William H. Crawford and Henry Clay were the candidates. General Lawyer was appointed by the Legislature of this State, November 11, 1824, the Presidential Elector for the 12th Congressional District of this State, as organized under the Act of April 17, 1822, composed of the counties of Schenectady and Schoharie; (it will be remembered that no choice was effected by the people, and Mr. Adams was subsequently chosen by the House of Representatives at its next session.) He was again elected as Member of Assembly from this County in the fall of 1845, under the second Constitution, and

served during the 70th Session in 1846, with the late Hon. Thomas Smith, as his colleague. At the close of this his last official term, full of honors and years of official distinction, so cheerfully awarded him by his neighbors and those who knew, and appreciated him so well, he retired to private life.

"How fitting and appropriate, that *his* official career should seem to terminate in point of rank and distinction where it first began. General Lawyer never became giddy and vain in the possession of places of high honor and distinction, of great public trust and responsibility. He seemed by nature just fitted and equal to the duties and various positions to which he attained, but never felt himself above them. It can in truth be said of him, that during his entire official life, by his strict adherence to a resolute purpose to pursue the right, the self-imposed restraints of a high regard for personal honor, at the close of each of the several official terms he so well and ably filled, he laid aside his robes unsoiled by a single act that tended to destroy either his own self-respect or the respect of others for him. He seemed to possess a soul that would have sickened under a sense of personal, professional or official dishonor, and to have acted upon the important principle that 'duty and fidelity in a public servant make up an important portion of a nation's wealth.' In public life, in his official intercourse, in his business and social relations, he was firm without obstinacy, prompt without undue haste, self-confident without arrogance, influencing others because he had learned to govern himself, and neither doing nor countenancing an intentional wrong. Of him it may well be said:—

'His life was gentle—and the elements
So mixed in him, that nature might stand up
And say to all the world—this was a man.'

"But it was not in his official and professional life alone that his virtues were seen and appre-

ciated. In his social and business intercourse with those around him, in the home circle, everywhere, those eminent qualities, that uniform urbanity, that dignity of manner and gentlemanly bearing that ever characterizes the true gentleman at heart, were pre-eminently his own. In brief he was truly possessed

'With all good grace to grace a gentleman.'

"His funeral obsequies were attended at the church at Lawyerville, on Sunday, the 24th inst., by a large circle of mourning friends, members of the Bar, and citizens generally from his own, and adjoining towns. The solemn and impressive services were conducted by Reverend H. A. Raymond, of Cohoes, and Reverend J. VanWoert, of Lawyerville, both of whom bore willing testimony to the Christian virtues, and bright hopes expressed by our deceased friend, in reference to his future state. This clearly shows that in reviewing a long well spent and active life, he has not forgotten that

'The path of glory leads but to the grave,
That there all human efforts end.'

"Thus has passed away a good man, one who has witnessed the varied scenes of tranquility and excitement in our history as a nation from its earliest date to the present hour.

"It seems by his death, the last connecting link that bound us to our past history and past generations, has been broken. He had lived to follow to the tomb his wife, and several of his children, who died in the prime of life. He had survived by many years, most of his political and professional contemporaries. He had lived beyond man's common lot, had enjoyed much more than ordinary honors, still the poignant grief caused by his death, will only give place to silent sorrow, as the mind recalls the virtues of General Thomas Lawyer. His memory will live in the grateful recollection of all who knew him, though his noble spirit has passed to the land of shadows.

'He sat, as sets the morning star, which goes
Not down, behind the darkened west, nor hides
Obscure amidst the tempest of the sky,
But melts away into the light of Heaven.'"

General Lawyer's pastor, Reverend J. Van-
Woert, said of him:—

"He was a diligent student of the Bible;
his scrap-books he filled with religious extracts,
and many passages are marked by him in his
favored religious books.

"In his public and professional duties, and in
his private life, he seems to have imbibed the
truth of a verse he had written in the fly-leaf of
his Bible dictionary:—

"Our lives are rivers gliding free
To that unfathomed, boundless sea,
The silent grave.
Thither all earthly pomp and boast,
Roll to be swallowed up and lost
In one dark wave."

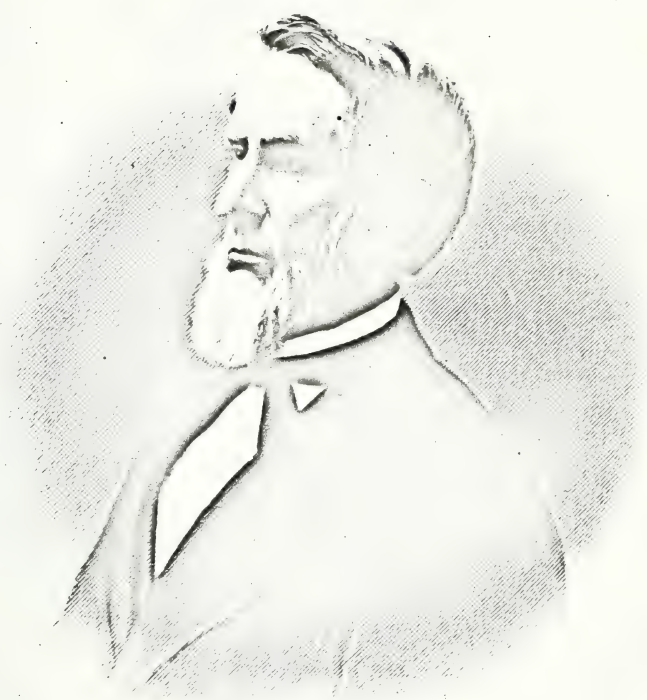
Since the year 1839, the old Lawyer place has
been the property of Charles Courter, who for
many years was the leading business man of
the town.

CHARLES COURTER.

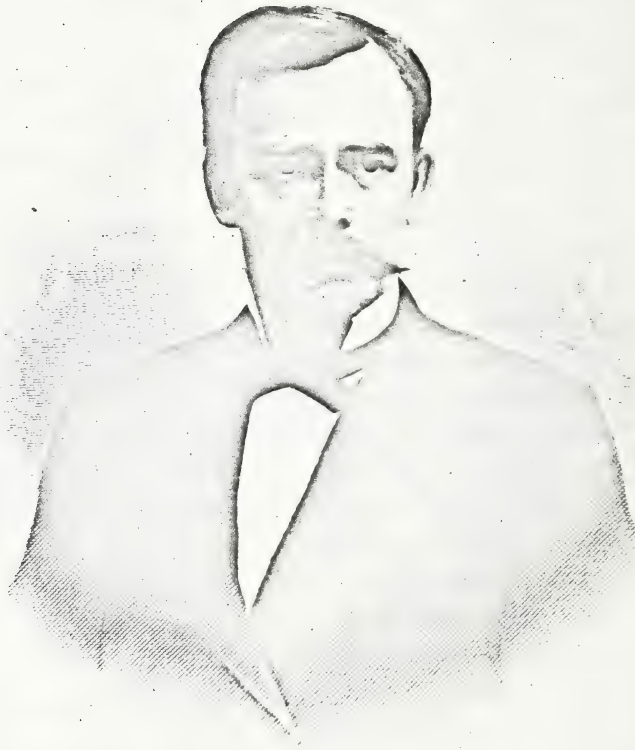
Charles Courter was born in the town of
Schoharie of poor, yet respectable parents, on
the 4th of June, 1808. His educational advan-
tages were only such as the village school pre-
sented, but possessing a quick perception he
soon fitted himself for general business and en-
tered the store of Freeman Stanton of Middle-
burgh, in 1823. No better tutor could young
Courter have been placed under than Freeman
Stanton, as he was a very sagacious business
man—yet most honorable in his dealings. Mr.
Stanton's trade was very large and consequently
brought Mr. Courter in contact with a large
circle of the best citizens of the County—among

whom were many of the first business men. Be-
ing thus brought before the people, the youth
would naturally assume the prerogatives of a
business man, and study the general principles
of trade. Such was the case, and in after years
Peter Osterhout placed him in a store at Law-
yersville over which he presided as manager, and
gave proof of that business tact that in after
years made him so useful and successful. In
the course of a few years he formed a co-part-
nership with Henry Shutts in the mercantile
business at Lawyersville and continued the same
to the year 1837 when he removed to Cobles-
kill village and engaged in business in the
Lambert Lawyer brick house.

In the interim he married Helen Lawyer
daughter of General Lawyer, and thus became
connected with one of the leading families of
the County. The business relations of Mr.
Courter and Mr. Shutts were the most pleasing
and instituted a friendship that was highly
prized by those gentlemen, and guarded with
jealous care. In 1839, Mr. Courter purchased
the Lawyer mansion and built a store-house
upon the ground formerly occupied by the barn
and horse sheds connected with the hotel, and
continued the business wholly or in part up to
the year 1864. He was one of the leading
spirits in the conception and construction of the
Albany & Susquehanna railroad, as in it he saw
the future prosperity of his adopted town and
village. He was for many years one of the di-
rectors of the road and was the most active in
its completion. Gaining that object he turned
his attention to the village and aroused an en-
thusiasm among the business men for the im-
provement of the place and in a few years
changed it from a quiet hamlet to an ener-
getic mart and business center. The large
West brick block, National bank and costly Luth-
eran church—beside many substantial residences,
are monuments of his energy and pride, and
bespeak the liberality of the man in his manner



Chas. Crocker



His Turner

of doing business. While Mr. Courter was a staunch Democrat in politics, and possessed the ability to grace any position, yet he held but few places of official trust, from the fact he did not court position, and was too closely attached to business to enter the political field. However, he represented the town upon the Board of Supervisors in 1841 and was re-elected the year following, after repeated declinations to run. In 1868, he was placed upon the Democratic Electoral ticket which received the largest majority the County ever gave in a Presidential contest.

Mr. Courter became extensively engaged in the manufacture of lumber in the State of Florida and connected with other heavy enterprises elsewhere, which required such active mental and physical labor as but few can accomplish—but in him, was found those qualities that enabled him to meet every requirement with the greatest promptness.

Upon one of his business journeys he became exposed and in reaching home, he was confined by an attack of pneumonia which closed his active life on the 1st day of January, 1879.

JAMES TANNER.

James Tanner was born at Richmondville, Schoharie County, N. Y., April 4, 1844.

His early life was spent on a farm, where he received the usual privileges of education furnished country boys in the district school.

When the war broke out he was engaged in teaching, and though but a lad, he resigned his position and enlisted in the 87th New York Volunteers, Company C, as a private soldier, being at the time but seventeen years and six months of age. Shortly after his enlistment, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal, which was but the assurance of further promotion had not his soldier's career been brought suddenly to an end, by the terrible disaster which befell him.

The 87th New York was hurried to the front, and was soon engaged in the conflicts of the ever memorable Peninsular campaign.

Being attached to Kearney's Division, Corporal Tanner participated in most of the battles which marked the advance of the Army of the Potomac, including Williamsburgh, Fair Oaks, the siege of Yorktown, the Seven days battle in front of Richmond and Malvern Hill. After leaving the Peninsula, the Regiment fought at Warrentown, Bristow Station, and Manassas Junction, in all of which battles Tanner took part.

The next battle was his last with the regiment, for there followed his terrible fight for life.

When his regiment marched to the second battle of Bull Run, he was in his place, ready, as he had ever been, to do the work assigned him. It was in this battle that he received the terrible injuries that resulted in the loss of both his legs. His regiment occupied a position on the extreme right of the line, with Stonewall Jackson's corps lying in front.

While undergoing a terrific shelling from the enemy, by order of General John C. Robinson, the men were lying down. While in this position, a piece of a shell struck his limbs, completely severing the right limb at the ankle, and so shattering the left limb as to make amputation necessary.

He was picked up by some of his comrades, and carried to a piece of timber near by, where the surgeons were at work. There, he said he lost consciousness, but when he recovered it, found that both of his limbs were off, having been amputated four inches below the knee.

Meantime the Union lines had been broken, and the army was retreating.

Hurriedly picking him up, Tanner's comrades sought to make good their escape, but were compelled to leave him at a farm-house, in order to prevent their own capture.

There he fell into the Rebels hands, and for

ten days, lay in the door-yard with six others, who had lost either a leg or an arm.

At the end of the ten days, he was paroled, and taken in an ambulance to Fairfax Seminary Hospital, near Alexandria, Virginia.

After remaining here four weeks, his brother found him, and took him back to his old home in Schoharie County. By the next spring he was able to get about on a pair of artificial legs, and soon after was appointed to the position of Deputy Doorkeeper in the Assembly.

He was subsequently appointed to various positions under the Legislature, and then went to Washington, as a clerk in the War Department, under Secretary Stanton.

On the night of President Lincoln's assassination, he was employed to take notes of the first official evidence of the assassination, and attempt upon the life of Secretary Seward. He was among the number who stood at the bedside of Mr. Lincoln when he died.

Resigning the position he held under Secretary Stanton, he returned to Richmondville, Schoharie County N. Y. and entered the law office of Judge William C. Lamont in the spring of 1866. He remained in the office of Judge Lamont until admitted to the bar.

In 1866, he married Miss M. L. White, daughter of Alfred C. White, of Jefferson, Schoharie County, N. Y. To them there have been born four beautiful children—two daughters and two sons.

In the spring of 1869, soon after he was admitted to the bar, Mr. Tanner was appointed to a position in the New York Custom House, and immediately took up his residence in the city of Brooklyn.

In the Custom House, he rose on competitive examination until he became Deputy Collector, in which office he served four years under General Chester A. Arthur.

In 1871, he was the Republican nominee for the Assembly in the 4th district of Kings

county, and though it was conceded that he ran far ahead of his ticket, and was really elected, he was deprived of his seat by the enormous frauds of that year, which have become part of political history of the city of Brooklyn—frauds which were only possible because of the fact that there was no registry law that year. In 1876, Mr. Tanner was the Republican candidate for Register of Kings county and was defeated by less than 2,000 votes though the Democratic majority that year in the County was 19,000.

In November, 1877, Mr. Tanner was nominated by Mayor Schroeder, and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen, to the responsible position of Collector of Taxes for the city of Brooklyn. Upon the expiration of his first term, although the mayoralty had in the meantime passed into the hands of the Democracy, he was nominated and confirmed by the entire vote of the Board of Aldermen with one exception. He instituted many reforms in the administration of the office, extending greater facilities to the tax-payers, and at the same time reduced the expenses of the office one-half. Under his regime the first day's collections on a new levy has grown from \$300,000 to \$2,000,000. On the induction into office, January 1, 1882, of Hon. Seth Low as Mayor of Brooklyn, he appointed Mr. Tanner as collector for the third term, and his action met with the hearty approval of all classes.

While in the office of collector he has not forgotten the claims of the soldier, for the records of the office show that during his term as collector there have been in his office twenty-two veteran soldiers whose aggregate salaries have amounted to \$80,000. Thus he is always when opportunities offer, reaching out in a substantial manner to the aid of the ex-soldier. This spirit ever manifesting itself has given him great popularity among the soldiers of the State.

For years Corporal Tanner has been a mem-

ber of the Grand Army of the Republic, seeking in every way possible to advance its interest. Repeatedly his comrades had felt how great was the value of the advice which he gave, and for long had looked upon him as a leader whose judgment was sound and whose heart was true. Consequently in 1876, he was elected to the position of Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of New York. He came in command at a time when the members of the Grand Army were discouraged because of the failure of the attempt to make provisions for the poor and homeless ex-soldiers in the State. It had long been felt that New York had neglected to provide for the wants of many of her maimed and helpless soldiers. Some futile attempts had been made to secure relief but nothing substantial had as yet been done.

When he assumed command of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of New York, there was as yet no home provided for the maimed and homeless soldiers of the State. While other States had provided for their homeless soldiers, New York had failed, as yet, to make any provisions.

Several attempts had been made to erect a home, but each attempt had failed. The outlook was discouraging, it was an herculean task to attempt a work which had repeatedly failed, and around which, because of previous failures there had gathered much of prejudice.

But realizing the fact that the alms-houses of the State were filled with crippled soldiers, and believing that by persistent and untiring effort, and a proper putting of the facts before the people especially the soldier element, a better result could be secured, he resolved to undertake the work. He traversed the State from one end to the other. He made public and private appeals in the interest of the soldiers' home. He fired the hearts of many truly patriotic and benevolent men; and at last poured an avalanche of petitions upon the Legislature of the

State. As the result of his never yielding efforts there was erected at Bath, Steuben county, N. Y. at a cost of \$80,000 a magnificent building known as "The Soldiers' Home" where the crippled defenders of the country most truly find the comforts and luxuries of a home.

The building is capable of accommodating six hundred men, and throughout the State the soldiers speak of it not only as a soldiers' home, but as Tanner's monument. It was truly a grand and noble work, and it was grandly done. And while through the struggle to accomplish it, many noble-hearted men gathered about the enterprise, still the buildings in their strength and patriotic philanthropy stand as a testimony to the burning zeal and untiring effort of the crippled soldier, Tanner.

At the present time Mr. Tanner is Collector of taxes of the city of Brooklyn, to which office he has been appointed for the third term, thus voicing the confidence in him of the great city where he lives.

He is a man of marked ability, being a public speaker of unusual eloquence and power; his voice not only being heard upon the political stump, but often upon the lecture platform.

He enjoys the confidence of a large circle of friends, and without doubt has a bright and promising future before him.

REV. PHILIP WIETING.

Mr. Wieting was born in Minden, Montgomery county, N. Y., September 23, 1800, and entered the ministry in 1825, at Le Roy, Jefferson county, N. Y., from whence he removed to New Rhinebeck in 1828, to officiate over that church and Dorlach, which position he held for forty years, and brought them from a "fading" shadow to their present high standard by his untiring labors and fervent godliness. Upon the division of the Synod, Mr. Wieting and his followers claimed the Rhinebeck

church property, while the Dorlach charge, which held to the old Synod, commenced litigation to retain it. After many years of legal dispute the courts decided against the new school's (Franck-

ean Evangelic Lutheran Synod) right to the property and Mr. Wieting and flock found themselves destitute of a house of worship. Measures were immediately taken, and in 1849 the



Philip Wieting

church of Gardnersville was dedicated but the building was burned soon after—supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. Not daunted the present one soon took its place in which the greatest efforts, in the cause of the Master, of Mr. Wieting's life were witnessed. The congregation was large—covering a wide extent of territory, and it became necessary to build a branch at Lawyerville, which was done in the latter part of 1849, and dedicated in February, 1850.

Mr. Wieting preached his valedictory sermon on the 1st day of October, 1868—the fortieth anniversary of his pastorate over his charge, in which he said “The aggregate of money raised by these two churches during my ministry is \$35,000, or an average of \$800 a year.” His

last sermon was preached in the new brick Lutheran church at Cobleskill on the 18th day of July, 1869. The fruits of his ministry in the sparsely settled section in which he was placed was, “received to membership, 1,250; baptized, 1,300; marriages solemnized, 800, and 1,700 funerals attended.” “Fifteen of his spiritual children,” says his memoir, “entered or are about to enter the ministerial calling.”

On the 7th of September, 1869, Mr. Wieting died in the sixty-ninth year of his age, and was buried in the “Slate Hill Cemetery” by a large concourse of friends, by whom he was dearly loved. His biographer says, which is true, also of his whole life in all relations—“the secret of his successful ministry was, Earnestness, Fidelity and Perseverance.”

APPENDIX.

By repeated solicitations from many of those who have given assistance and encouragement in the publication of this work, the author was induced for the purpose of gratifying many friends' desires, to condense material elsewhere and give place to the centennial ceremonies that occurred within the County.

By so doing may they be preserved until another century rolls round. May then a re-

currence of the spirit of honor and patriotism which led to such observances, be aroused in the breasts of our children's children, to again animate "Love of Country," through her early struggles, for a further lease of Liberty and Independence, and thus transmit from one century to another, our national pride and honor, through the silent workings of reverential hearts and not by martial power.

"THE purpose of this publication* is to perpetuate the formal part of the ceremonies which occurred at Schoharie on the ninety-sixth anniversary of the capture of Major Andre, and also to record in an enduring form a brief statement of the manner in which the people of Schoharie county and the surrounding country responded to the suggestion, that the grave of DAVID WILLIAMS, one of Andre's captors, should be permanently honored by a monument worthy of the historic act with which his name is associated.

"The following extract is taken from a description, in the local press, of the celebration which occurred at Schoharie on the 23d day of September, 1876 :

"Saturday dawned cloudy and cool, but not threatening. The streets were dry but not dusty, and the committee-men in purple ribbons and white ribbons were busily performing the various duties assigned to them before eight o'clock in the morning. People were coming in from every quarter at that early hour, and no one seemed to think that Old Probabilities, who announced rain, knew any thing about the weather. The cars from either direction were crowded inside, and even on their roofs.

"At 10 A. M. the steady stream of incoming people was augmented by the arrival of the excursion trains from Albany and Troy, and the day was fairly begun. The Committee of Reception was on hand at the depot with carriages for the orator and notables, and mounted marshals were also in attendance. As soon as the train stopped, our visitors from Albany and Troy disembarked. First came the Albany Zouave Cadets, Co. A, 10th Regiment, in command of Captain John H. Reynolds, and headed by Austin's Band ; then came the carriages with Hon. Charles Holmes, president of the day ; the orator of the day, Grenville Tremain, Esq., of Albany ; the poet of the day, Alfred B. Street, of Albany ; Daniel Knower, Ralph Brewster,

commissioners ; several descendants of David Williams ; Senator W. C. Lamont ; J. R. Simms, historian, of Schoharie County ; Hon. S. L. Mayham, N. La F. Bachman, Esq., Hon. S. H. Sweet, of Albany, Colonel C. C. Kromer, Prof. S. Sias, Charles Courter, Esq., A. A. Hunt, Esq., Hon. John Westover, and Dr. W. T. Lamont and many others.

"The line of march was up Knower avenue to Bridge street, down Bridge street to Main street, down Main street to the Old Stone Fort, where the exercises of laying the corner-stone were to take place. When the head of the line reached the Stone Fort, the road was full of carriages the entire mile between it and the village, and others were still coming, and the sidewalks were crowded the entire distance with people on their way to the Fort. Only about one-half of the people could get inside the grounds and in the street which passes by the grounds surrounding the Stone Fort, and these were estimated by competent judges to number five thousand. We do not doubt that there were ten thousand people in the village that day. As soon as possible order was restored, and Hon. Charles Holmes, president of the day, announced the following programme :—

Singing of Whittier's Hymn by the Schoharie Musical Association.

Prayer by Rev. WILLIAM H. HANDY.

Singing of the "STAR SPANGLED BANNER" by the Schoharie Musical Association.

Oration by GRENVILLE TREMAIN, of Albany.

Music by Doring's Band.

Poem, written by ALFRED B. STREET, of Albany, and read by N. LA F. BACHMAN, Esq., of Schoharie.

Singing of "AMERICA" by the Schoharie Musical Association.

Historical Address by Dr. KNOWER, of Schoharie.

Music by Austin's Band.

* The following pages are taken from the published proceedings of the Ceremonies at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of David Williams Monument, at Schoharie, September 23, 1876.

ORATION

BY

GRENVILLE TREMAIN.

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW-CITIZENS—In that temple of silence and reconciliation where the enmities of twenty generations lie buried, in the tender and solemn gloom of that venerable abbey wherein is gathered the honored dust of England's bravest and best, surrounded by "royal sarcophagus and carved shrine, and by fading banners which tell of the knights of former time; where the Chathams and Mansfields repose, and where orators and poets lie," is a conspicuous monument, bearing this inscription:—

"SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF MAJOR JOHN ANDRE, WHO, RAISED BY HIS MERIT AT AN EARLY PERIOD OF HIS LIFE TO THE RANK OF ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THE BRITISH FORCES IN AMERICA, AND EMPLOYED IN AN IMPORTANT BUT HAZARDOUS ENTERPRISE, FELL A SACRIFICE TO HIS ZEAL FOR HIS KING AND COUNTRY."

By command of England's king, George the Third, was this monument raised in Westminster Abbey. The sculptor, true to the historical fact, has pictured and perpetuated the singular sense of pain and grief entertained by those who were the foes of him whose name is thus prominently carved in this temple of fame: Contemplating, as it were, with bowed head this rare homage of a great nation to her dead, the spectator is moved to inquire more minutely into the events of this life so grandly immortalized.

What has won so much in a career of only twenty nine years? In this sacred mausoleum of England's mighty dead, where,

Through long-drawn aisle and fretted vault,
sweep memories of those who have enriched the language, ennobled the human intellect, elevated humanity, or perpetuated in immortal verse the emotions and passions of men, on every side are names, the very utterance of which is an era, an army, an anthem, an empire. To associate with these mighty dead, how incalculable the honor! How indelible the record here engraven! How immortal the fame here perpetuated!

And yet this man thus wept by his foes and immortalized by his country, was an enemy to American liberty, a foe to republicanism, whose death was ignoble, and whose ashes reposed for forty years under the free soil of our own land, marked only by a tree whose fruit never blossomed. That monument to the memory of John Andre would never have been raised, no such inscription would ever have been written, and that grim irony would not have marred the greatness of Westminster Abbey, but for the critical act, the crucial conduct and the incorruptible honor of him whose name is upon every lip and in every heart here to-day.

The minute details of the story and the life that are brought to mind by the ceremonies of this day will be wrought out by another and

more competent hand. The expression of the thoughts and emotions suggested by the accepted facts connected with the memorable event of September 23, 1780, and a mere outline of the occurrence, are more appropriately within the province of the duty assigned to me. In the contemplation of the performance of that duty I am sustained, buoyed and strengthened by a belief in the leniency of judgment and the charitable consideration of those whom I address.

To us, living when the nation's life has spanned a century, when her greatness and her power are recognized in every clime and upon every sea, when the rich blessings of civil and religious liberty accompany every heart-throb and every breath—to us the page that records the fidelity and the transcendent honor of David Williams, John Paulding and Isaac Van Wart, is serried with lines of the deepest interest, and glorious with letters that can never fade.

We open to-day the book that perpetuates the history of Revolutionary times, that tells how our country was baptized with fire and blood; how, through toils, and labors, and sacrifices, and sorrows, and prayers, this last hope of Republicanism arose; and we know that the "red rain of her slaughtered sires has but watered the earth for the harvest of their gallant sons." We turn to the chapter blackened by the only traitor that disgraced the Revolutionary period, to find that his treachery was defeated and the infant nation saved by the providential presence and the memorable act of him to whom we this day erect with pageant and with pride, this monumental tribute.

That Andre's was an important but hazardous enterprise is now more fully appreciated than even when the stirring events of that period were being enacted—nay, than during the first half century of the nation's life. The true nature of that enterprise as well, thanks to the unerring adjustment of time, has become fixed

and certain wherever intelligence and judicial fairness prevail over passion or sentimentality. I would not if I could, and certainly I could not if I would, mar the charm of that picture which the character and personality of Major Andre presents. Dissociated from the terrible consequences which would have resulted from a successful termination of that enterprise, and independent of the attempt made in certain quarters in England to cast a shade upon the spotless character of Washington, we cannot contemplate the fate of Andre, without emotions of the profoundest pity. Wherever loyalty and valor are respected, wherever steadfastness and manly devotion are admired, wherever youth, ambition, intelligence and beauty combined, command interest and win affection, there will the character of Major Andre be cordially and truly appreciated. But these very qualities of heart and mind were the underlying causes of his connection with the enterprise. Considered with all the surrounding circumstances, however, I have no hesitation in saying that, in comparison with the high noon glory that surrounds the distinguished service, lofty firmness and untarnished honor of our own Nathan Hale, the conduct of Andre pales into a glimmering twilight. He who by corruption and bribery seeks profit and renown, has no place beside him who for love of liberty, considers his own single life but an insignificant offering upon the altar of his country.

The method of Andre's death was an inseparable accompaniment of the act and of the offense. The laws of war and of nations have inexorably imposed the penalty, and its infamy cannot be lessened in the world's estimation by the fact that his brother was invested with the honors of knighthood. Vattel, the great expositor of the laws of nations and of war, while he recognizes such enterprises as not contrary to the external law of nations, denies that they are just and compatible with the laws of a pure

conscience, and says: "Seducing a subject to betray his country; suborning a traitor to set fire to a magazine; practicing on the fidelity of a Governor—enticing him, persuading him to deliver up a place, is prompting such persons to commit detestable crimes. Is it honest to incite our most inveterate enemy to be guilty of a crime? * * * It is a different thing merely to accept the offers of a traitor, but when we know ourselves able to succeed without the assistance of traitors, it is noble to reject their offers with detestation."

At this distance of time, then, we view the act of Andre with that calmness and repose of judgment that does not err, and which is not warped by

"Titles blown from adulation."

This is the darker side of the picture essential to its completeness; but there are lighter shades to attract the eye and warm the heart. Let us examine them.

Stand with me upon the historic spot, hard by Tarrytown, in the county of Westchester, where the dark blow that was aimed at the life of the young Nation was arrested. There the zealous Andre sees visions of future glory and honor, kingliest rewards, within his very grasp. There, as he rides along his solitary path beyond the American lines and on the very verge of safety, he knows that his heel is upon the throat of American freedom and independence. Within sight the great artery of trade and commerce flows majestic to the sea, unconscious that on this hapless morning of September 21, 1780, its bosom is vexed by the *Vulture* laden with the fate of nations and of centuries. The giant mountains, sentinels of the centuries, stand and see the beginning and the tragic ending of the hellish plot which includes the destinies of the Nation, and the sacrifice of the precious life upon which those destinies hang. Standing at this point of observation, the magnitude of the service of

David Williams is more fully seen, is more fully comprehended. In the rusty garb of a reduced gentleman, the solitary horseman, as he approaches, is now the central figure of our view. And who is he? Major John Andre, Adjutant-General of the British forces in America. He has left the "Mercuries reclining upon bales of goods, and the Genii playing with pens, ink and paper." Mercantile glories crowd no longer upon his fancy. An "impertinent consciousness" has whispered in his ear that he is not of the right stuff for a merchant, and the picture of his beautiful and beloved Honora has lost the talismanic power to enlighten toil and inspire industry. Accomplished in the lighter graces of music, poetry and painting, graceful and cultured in literary expression, fired with a zeal for glory,

"Yearning for the large excitement that the coming years would yield,

Eager-hearted as a boy, when first he leaves his father's field,"

he has turned his glowing nature toward the profession of his heart. In the words of his biographer, few men were more capable than he of winning a soldier's reward. A prisoner at the surrender of St. Johns, we see him clinging to the picture his own hand had painted of the loved Honora; promoted for merit and fidelity to a position far above his years and experience, winning the confidence and affection of his chief, Sir Henry Clinton, he is now commissioned for a service of which the King of England did not hesitate to say that "the public never can be compensated for the vast advantages which must have followed from the success of his plan."

Up to that critical moment, nine o'clock on the morning of the 23d of September, there had been no special lack of discretion on Andre's part. He had been borne along by fates that were propitious, so far as human ken could see, though in fact perils were approaching from

sources called accidental, perils which to him were entirely unforeseen. For more than a year he had, without exposure or suspicion, conducted a clandestine correspondent with the traitor Arnold. The treason had been hidden under the phrases of the mercantile profession. Arnold, under the feigned name of "Gustavus," had communicated much valuable, and often highly important information to Andre, whom he addressed as John Anderson. Sir Henry Clinton, the commander of the British forces, had soon suspected the true rank and person of Gustavus. Several attempts at a personal interview had miscarried, but the infidelity of Arnold had never been suspected. He had by importunity at last succeeded in obtaining from Washington command of West Point, without causing the slightest shade of suspicion to cross the sagacious mind of that watchful commander. There his plottings were renewed. Even the overture which had come in response to his communications, and borne by the ominous *Vulture* up the Hudson to within fourteen miles of Arnold's quarters, near West Point, had been shown to Washington in the presence of LaFayette, with a brazen boldness that extinguished all doubts of Arnold's honor. "I had no more suspicion of Arnold than I had of myself," said the chief in relating this. On the 20th, Andre had boarded the *Vulture* in the highest spirits, confident of success. The details of that midnight voyage of twelve miles, from King's Ferry to Teller's Point, and back from the *Vulture* to Long Clove, are known to all. With oars carefully muffled in sheep-skins, the flag-boat, so called, beneath a serene and clear sky, approached in silence the place of meeting, where the arch-traitor was hid among the firs.

From this point occur a series of trivial circumstances, insignificant in themselves, but yet big with fate. The refusal of the boatman to return to the *Vulture* that night, necessitated the journey to the Smith house, some three or

four miles distant, the consequent disguise assumed by Andre to escape detection during the return by land, and as well the possession of the papers found under Andre's stockings, which led his captors to the knowledge of his true character. Without that disguise and without those papers, while the conspiracy might not have been defeated, the life of Andre would have been saved. But the memorable act of Colonel Livingston is still more remarkable. At day-break, on the morning of the 22d, the *Vulture* still lingered with impudent audacity in the vicinity of the American fortifications. Her presence had so outraged the spirit of Livingston and the troops that he had applied, but without success, to Arnold for two heavy guns. Nothing daunted by the treasonable refusal of Arnold, he had carried a four-pounder to Gallows Point, a lesser promontory of Teller's, and with but a scant supply of powder, he commenced so active a cannonading upon her that she was obliged to drop down the river beyond range. In this manner all means of access to her by water was cut off from Andre. But for the American grit and perseverance of Livingston, Andre would doubtless have found some means of again boarding the *Vulture*, carrying with him the instruments for the destruction of West Point and her dependencies. Upon such apparently trivial and accidental incidents does the fate of nations frequently depend.

From the window of Smith's house, Andre saw with impatience the *Vulture* withdraw, but he knew not that she carried with her all his hopes of future glory and renown. All that morning after Arnold's departure, which occurred at ten o'clock, he chafed with impatience to depart. But the jealous, prying, gossip-loving guide, in whose care Andre had been left, proved too timid, weak and procrastinating for the part assigned him. Toward the last of that ill-omened Friday, the return was begun, with Andre's spirits sunk deep in gloom and sadness. And

well might they be. The bargain had been made by which, for gold, an officer, high in the esteem of Washington, had sold his birth-right and his honor. During that long night he had been breathing the foul atmosphere where treason was hatched, had been looking into a face wrinkled with perfidy, into the blood-shot eyes of a debauched and worthless traitor. And he, the soul of honor, "the pet of the British army," had been bartering with devilish coolness for the soul of a fellow-man. Involved in that midnight conference were the lives of men who had never done him injury, and the happiness of innocent women and children who had never crossed his path. He, the hero, who had been fired by a desire to win renown by heroic bravery and distinguished service for his country, was skulking inside the enemy's lines like a common thief in disguise, the companion of a petty tool and his negro, and with his stockings stuffed with an ill-gotten booty, bought with the price of another's dishonor. Is it any wonder that his mind settled into gloomy forebodings?

He crossed King's Ferry at the northern extremity of Haverstraw bay and took his way, under the dictation of his over-cautious companion, northward, to disarm suspicion. Here another trivial circumstance interposed itself with unerring fatality. Smith, the willing tool of Arnold, insisted upon remaining over night on the way. Fatal error! In the darkness and silence of that night, there were hidden forces at work, which would block the morrow's path with a wall more impregnable than Fort Putnam. The honor and incorruptibility of David Williams was a part of its masonry.

All night the restless Andre tossed upon an uneasy bed, side by side with the miserable creature whose easy virtue had yielded to the persuasions of Arnold. Is it wonderful that both should have been robbed of sleep? Is it strange that at daylight and without breakfast they should hasten on in the path that was to

lead Andre to the feet of his sovereign, to receive a grateful country's homage and reward?

And now we approach the place and the act in commemoration of which, by the tardy favor and justice of our State, we are assembled here to-day.

The three captors of Major Andre, whose names have become renowned, would in all likelihood have remained unknown to future generations, had Smith, as he agreed, accompanied Andre to White Plains, below Tarrytown. But yielding to his pusillanimous fears, he refused to go further than Pines Bridge.

From this point, then, our solitary horseman approaches the place where we stand. To the west of the road was the river; to the east, the Greenburgh Hills, in whose bosom lies the world-renowned vale of Sleepy Hollow, with its old church founded by the Philipse family, and the ancient bell with its legend, *Deus pro nobis, quis contranos*. In front of him as he passes, a few rough logs laid side by side, furnish a passage over a rivulet, which rises in the neighboring swamp and finds its way westward into those broad waters of the Hudson known as the Tappan Zee.

Here on the south and west side of the path, concealed among the bushes, are David Williams, the eldest of the party (he being about twenty-two years old), John Paulding and Isaac Van Wart, yeomen. Not freeholders under the rank of gentlemen, but American citizens of humble birth, two of whom had already risked their lives in the service of their country and in the cause of the colonies, against whom the breath of slander from sentimental or compassionate lips, had not yet breathed a shade of suspicion; representatives of that "Peasant patriotism of America—the conquering power of the revolution—the essential element then, as now, and evermore, of American greatness and American freedom!"

Springing to their feet, with presented mus-

kets, they bid the stranger stand and announce his destination. Surely the darling of the British army, who, by sagacity, prudence and bravery, has been elevated to the rank of Adjutant-General of the British forces in America, is possessed of sufficient caution to disarm this bristling trio! Not so. Although armed with Arnold's pass to guard him against the only real enemies he has cause to fear, and which has already put to sleep the awakened suspicions of the wary Captain Boyd, some over-ruling Providence leads him to make that fatal answer, "My lads, I hope you belong to our party." The reply comes quick, "What party is that?" "The lower party," he answered. "We do," is the reply. "Thank God, I am once more among friends," he cried, deceived by the rude simplicity of the men, and recognizing a British militia coat upon Paulding's back, a coat in which (in lieu of his own, of which he had been despoiled,) Paulding had escaped from the enemy, in whose hands he had fallen some five or six days before the capture of Andre. "I am glad to see you, I am a British officer; I have been up in the country on particular business, and I hope you wont detain me a minute," confidently continued Andre.

The long agony was over! That mine which had been set for the overthrow of the citadel of American freedom and independence, whose train it had taken months to lay, was now exposed and harmless, unless

"The jingling of the guinea

That helps the hurt that honor feels,"

can successfully assail the virtue of Williams, Van Wart and Paulding. This vast assemblage, these ceremonies, the projected monument over the remains of David Williams, but above all that waving symbol of the power and greatness of this nation, tell with unmistakable and an answerable emphasis of the incorruptible integrity of these simple rustic men.

The State of New York has honored herself

by making the appropriation necessary to commence this monument over the remains of the only one of that immortal three, whose grave remains to this day unhonored. In 1827, the city of New York erected a monument over the remains of Paulding near Peekskill, bearing this significant inscription:—

"On the morning of the 23d of September, 1780, accompanied by two young farmers of the county of Westchester (whose names will one day be recorded on their own deserved monuments) he intercepted the British spy, Andre. Poor himself, he disdained to acquire wealth by the sacrifice of his country. Rejecting the temptation of great rewards, he conveyed his prisoner to the American camp; and by this act of noble self-denial the treason of Arnold was detected, the designs of the enemy baffled, West Point and the American army saved, and these United States, now, by the grace of God, free and independent, rescued from most imminent peril."

At Greenburgh, near Tarrytown, on the spot where the remains of Isaac Van Wart lie buried, the citizens of the vicinity erected, in 1829, a suitable monument, with the following inscription engraven thereon:—

"Fidelity. On the 23d of September, 1780, Isaac Van Wart, accompanied by John Paulding and David Williams, all farmers of the county of Westchester, intercepted Major Andre on his return from the American lines in the character of a spy; and, notwithstanding the large bribes offered them for his release, nobly disdained to sacrifice their country for gold, secured and carried him to the commanding officer of the district, whereby the dangerous and traitorous conspiracy of Arnold was brought to light, the insidious designs of the enemy baffled, the American army saved, and our beloved country free."

On the memorable site where the capture occurred, the young men of Westchester county,

in 1853, built a cenotaph in honor of the captors. How appropriate, then, that in this beautiful valley and in this County, where the survivor of the three lived for twenty-six years, and where he died and was buried, there should rise an enduring mark of the gratitude and appreciation of this people:

It does not become the time nor the occasion to enter upon any extended discussion of the mooted questions surrounding the purposes and motives of Andre's captors. It is too late a day to reverse the judgment of George Washington and Alexander Hamilton, of Congress and the Legislature of this State, all pronounced at the time. Besides the united testimony of a host of their neighbors and acquaintances, the sworn statement of Paulding and Van Wart, and the solemn asseverations of Williams, seven months before his death in 1831, all unite in bearing down, with an unanswerable weight of testimony, the eleventh-hour statement of Colonel Tallmadge thirty-seven years after the capture. To all this we may add the critical analysis, by Henry J. Raymond, of the whole testimony bearing on the subject. That acute publicist dismissed the slander to the reprobation it deserves, and the almost universal judgment of the American people confirms the verdict. For myself, I may be permitted to add, that in my judgment, when examined with fairness, and attested by the rules of common sense and common justice, every candid mind must inevitably conclude that the overwhelming balance of proof is upon the side of the incorruptible honesty and purity of their motives. Nothing more reliable than rumor and suspicion arising from statements made solely by Andre, stand upon the other side, statements, it must never be forgotten, which sprang from a heart sorely dejected, chagrined and mortified by his own lack of common prudence; made, too, at a time when his mind, sunk beneath a weight of woe almost incalculable, was seeking for relief in the

contemplation of what might have been. It is our duty to guard the reputation of these humble patriots against this misty testimony rising out of such a cauldron of self-interest. It must always be borne in mind that the British would not concede that true virtue was a feature of character belonging to Americans; and Andre, fresh from a field where he had witnessed the debased character of a high officer, was in no condition of mind to stem the tide of opinion that flowed within the English lines. The virtue of these men, under such circumstances, could not be, and evidently was not comprehended. In the words of Lieutenant-Colonel Fleury, written from Newport, on the 5th of October, 1780:—"How great, compared to Arnold, are those peasants who refused the bribe of Andre. Let this be remembered in favor of the poor."

I may be permitted to express the hope, that somewhere upon this projected monument to David Williams will appear these notable words of Washington in his letter to the President of Congress: "The party that took Major Andre * * acted in such a manner as does them the highest honor, and proves them to be men of great virtue, * * their conduct gives them a just claim to the thanks of their country."

Perhaps the true nature of this conduct is more eloquently and luminously told in the words of Alexander Hamilton, in the Laurens letter, where he says: "Arnold's conduct and that of the captors of Andre, form a striking contrast. He tempted them with the offer of his watch, his horse and any sum of money that they should name. They rejected his offer with indignation, and the gold that could seduce a man, high in the esteem and confidence of his country, who had the remembrance of past exploits, the motives of present reputation and future glory to prop his integrity, had no charms for these simple peasants leaning on their virtue and an honest sense of their duty. While Arnold is handed down with execration, poster-

ity will repeat with reverence the names of Van Wart, Paulding and Williams!"

I owe it to the occasion, to you and to myself, to present some considerations in support of the constantly recurring thought, throughout this discourse, of the grave importance of Arnold's plot. I have already alluded to the estimate of its advantages to the British government pronounced by King George the Third. From the abundant materials furnished by those in the English service at the time, I will only add the following from the memoirs of Sir Henry Clinton, commander of the British forces in New York. In speaking of the arrest of Andre, he says: "I was exceedingly shocked, as may be supposed, by this very unexpected accident, which not only ruined a most important project which had all the appearance of being in a happy train of success, but involved in danger and distress a confidential friend for whom I had deservedly the warmest esteem."

Creasy, in his "Decisive Battles of the World," has succinctly described the great and pivotal victory of the Americans at Saratoga, on the 7th of October, 1777. He has conclusively shown the plan of operations which the English attempted in that year, and which the battle of Saratoga defeated. The English had a considerable force in Canada, which had been re-enforced for the purpose of striking a vigorous and crushing blow against the Colonies. It was intended that the force thus collected should march southward by the line of the lakes and thence along the banks of the Hudson river. The British army in New York was to make a simultaneous movement northward up the line of the Hudson, and the two expeditions were to meet at Albany. In this manner all communications between the Colonial army in New England, and the principal army under Washington, which was watching over Pennsylvania and the South, would be cut off. The army from Canada was under command of Burgoyne, and that in New York

under Sir Henry Clinton. The plan was ably formed, and was defeated only by the consummate skill of General Gates, and the unprecedented bravery of his men at Saratoga, aided by the delay caused by the fortifications on the lower Hudson, the key of which was West Point, which fortification hindered the prompt co-operation of Sir Henry Clinton with Burgoyne. Clinton, in fact, reached Kingston, where, hearing of Burgoyne's surrender, he burned the place and returned to New York.

What the capture of West Point would have been to the British, will be more fully appreciated by an illustration familiar to all. It will be remembered how the country was stirred to its very center, on the 4th of July, 1863, by the glorious tidings that Vicksburg had fallen, and that "the great Mississippi swept unvexed to the sea." What that meant was soon known. Surrounded, like West Point, with fortifications, redoubts and bastioned forts, it held within its iron grasp the control of the great Mississippi. When it fell, that great artery through which ran the life-blood of the Southern Confederacy, was absolutely within the power of the Federal army. The Rebellion had been cut in twain. In the language of Sherman, "the reduction of Vicksburg made the destruction of the Rebellion certain." What Vicksburg and her dependencies were to the Mississippi in 1863, West Point and her dependencies were to the Hudson in 1780.

What had been lost at Saratoga by open force, would have been regained, had West Point and its dependencies fallen by means of the secret plottings of Arnold. "This was the great object of British and American solicitude," says Irving, in speaking of West Point, "on the possession of which was supposed by many to hinge the fortunes of the war." And again he says, "the immediate result of this surrender, it was anticipated, would be the defeat of the combined attempt upon New York, and its ulti-

mate effect might be the dismemberment of the Union and the dislocation of the whole American scheme of warfare." From the mass of American testimony at hand, the following additional proofs are selected: LaFayette wrote to his wife, October 8th: "A frightful conspiracy has been planned by the celebrated Arnold; he sold to the English the fort of West Point which was under his command, and consequently the whole navigation of the North river."

General Greene issued a general order on the 26th of October, from which the following is taken:—

"Treason, of the blackest dye, was yesterday discovered. General Arnold, who commanded at West Point—lost to every sentiment of honor, of private and public obligation—was about to deliver up that important post into the hands of the enemy. Such an event must have given the American cause a deadly wound, if not a fatal stab. Happily this treason has been timely discovered to prevent the fatal misfortune. The providential train of circumstances which led to it affords the most convincing proof that the liberties of America are the object of divine protection. At the same time, though the treason is to be regretted, the General cannot help congratulating the army on the happy discovery. Our enemies, despairing of carrying their point by force, are practicing every base art to effect by bribery and corruption, what they cannot accomplish in a manly way. Great honor is due to the American army that this is the first instance of the kind, where many were to be expected from the nature of the dispute; and nothing is so bright an ornament in the character of the American soldiers, as their having been proof against all the arts and seductions of an insidious enemy. * * * His Excellency the commander-in-chief has arrived at West Point from Hartford, and is no doubt taking proper measures to unravel fully so hellish a plot."

It must be borne in mind, that had the "hellish plot" succeeded, it would have involved the captivity of Washington himself. The following remarkable letter of Governor William Livingston to General Washington so entirely expresses the emotions of the hour, that it is inserted in full.

"TRENTON, 7th October, 1780.

DEAR SIR—I most heartily congratulate your Excellency on the timely discovery of General Arnold's treasonable plot to captivate your person and deliver up West Point to the enemy, of which the loss of the former, had his infernal machinations succeeded, would have been more regretted by America than of the latter. The remarkable disposition of Providence to frustrate the diabolical conspiracy, will inspire every virtuous American with sincere gratitude to the Great Arbiter of all events; and I hope that no true Whig among us will ever forget the memorable era when we were, by the peculiar guardianship of Heaven, rescued from the very brink of destruction.

"I have the honor to be

your very obedient servant,

"WILLIAM LIVINGSTON."

Is it any wonder, then, that with pomp and circumstance, and with grateful hearts, we assemble to perpetuate with enduring granite, here under the broad sky, and upon the free acres of our beloved country, that transcendent act and that renowned virtue of these captors of Andre!

Though neglected, he whose ashes lie buried here, was not absolutely forgotten by his country, and it is proper that allusion should be made to the rewards which a grateful country has bestowed upon him.

By authority of Congress, in 1780, a silver medal bearing the inscription of "Fidelity," and the legend "*Vincit Amor Patriæ*," was presented to each of the captors, and at the

same time an annuity was authorized to be paid to each, of \$200 in specie. In addition, Congress granted to each the privilege of locating any confiscated lands in the county of Westchester to the amount of \$1,250, or of receiving that sum in cash. The Legislature of the State of New York granted to each a farm, reciting in the act as a consideration "their virtue in refusing a large sum offered to them by Major Andre as a bribe to permit him to escape." In the fall of 1830, the corporation of the city of New York invited David Williams (the survivor of the three), by special messenger to be present in that city at the celebration of the French Revolution. He was drawn, with other heroes of 1776, in a carriage at the head of the procession and attracted much attention. He was presented with a silver cup at one of the schools, and at another with a silver headed cane, the stem of which was made out of a *chevaux-de-frise* used near West Point during the Revolution. His widow obtained a continuation of his pension, which ceased at the time of his death. Forty-five years ago, amid a concourse of honoring friends and countrymen, he was buried at Livingstonville, in this County. His remains have been removed by the consent of his descendants to this place.

Here in this locality, made memorable by the ruinous invasion of Johnson about the time when the events we have described were transpiring near Tarrytown—here near the place where the "peeled log" of the enemy left its mark upon the old Dutch church—here where brave men and braver women stood with undaunted courage in the midst of conflagration, ruin and death—where the red men showed no mercy, and where patriots never flinched—let his ashes lie. Not in the midst of royal sar-

cophagi or carved shrines, but surrounded by the veneration of untold generations of freeborn Americans; not wholly unhonored, as heretofore, but graced and adorned with a permanent token of our remembrance and esteem. For at last, thanks to the interest and sense of justice of many good men and true, the Legislature of the State, by making an appropriation for the monument, has removed the stain which the neglect of forty-five years had fastened upon us.

Standing where we do to-day, as it were upon the apex of a pyramid, we look back over the way the nation has so grandly trod. In the beginning we perceive the toiling multitudes, who, regardless of personal sacrifice, conscious of their own rectitude and relying upon the favor of God, wrought out the greatest empire of freedom the world has ever seen. In that great work, so full of the richest blessings for us and for our children, let it be remembered, that the part performed by the humblest, was often as important as that of the greatest. The cause of the colonies was near to the hearts of the people. That was the security of the nation then, and it cannot endure without it now.

Oh! if the young men of our time would glow with a healthy pride of race; if they would kindle with the inspiration of patriotism; if they would find annals wealthier in enduring lesson, and bright with the radiance of a holier virtue than ever Rome embraced or Sparta knew, let them read their own land's history. Then may we be hopeful for the future. Then may the story we rehearse here to-day be borne to future ages along with the growing grandeur of this mighty nation which was built upon the devotion, and will be sustained by the bright example of the Revolutionary patriots.

POEM,

BY ALFRED B. STREET.

What fires the human heart with noblest flame,
And fills, with grandest swell, the trump of
fame—

Strengthens the sinews, war's dread arms to
wield—

Scorns the red horrors of the battlefield—
Tunes to triumphant song the failing breath,
And sheds live brilliance on the brow of death ?
'Tis love of country ! mystic fire from Heaven !
To light our race up stateliest heights 'tis given ;
To guard man's home—make that his holiest
shrine

Where his soul's love grows purest, most divine ;
Where dear domestic virtues safely bloom,
And joy's rich rainbows deck grief's transient
gloom ;

At whose bright hearth is changeless summer
found

Heightening to pleasure daily duty's round ;
Where humble wishes sweet enjoyments shed
Like violets fragrant in their lowly bed.
Not this alone ! beyond the narrow span
Of single souls, it rivets man to man ;
Links in one circling chain the stretched out
hand,

And makes one fireside of the whole broad land.

Thus home meets home though mountains rise
between,

And winter storms beat backward summer
sheen ;

O'er the wide river, through the forest, all
That most repels, on runs the living wall,
Against which, should its faithful strength re-
main,

The world shall hurl its angriest waves in vain.

It turns the rocks to roses, stormiest skies
To loveliest calm ; where cloudy crags arise
The anointed eye views plains knee-deep in
flowers ;

The ear in dumb wastes, hears melodious bowers.

Deem we the Esquimaux, though brutish, sees
Heavens that but frown and waters that but
freeze !

Think we the Arab, though untaught, surveys
Sands that but burn and sunbeams that but
blaze !

No ! In that frown the cold dwarfed shape per-
ceives

Summer's soft gold poured out on emerald
leaves ;

His wooden streak, wild plunging, ripples smooth
O'er glassy seas that undulate to soothe ;
And the fierce roamer of the ocean gray
Treads velvet grass, feels sweet the pleasant ray,
Till one oasis smiles along his songful way.

Grand love of Country ! from the earliest time
Our race has deemed its glory most sublime.
To its proud praise the lyre has loftiest rung,
Eloquence woke the music of its tongue ;
A Hector's deed filled Homer's breast with fire,
And when shall patriot Scipio's fame expire ?
Though Rome's dread Eagle darkened earth at
will,

Thy name, Caractacus, shines brightly still !
Planting his foot upon his native sod
He fought ; though made a slave to Cæsar's rod,
His big heart burst its chains, and up he towered,
a god !

And thus with willing minds we meet to lay
Our gifts on a loved patriot's shrine to-day.

Not fortune's favorite he—his humble sail
Felt but the shock of penury's ceaseless gale;
Never he knew the rose, but felt the thorn;
His pathway led through chill neglect and
scorn;

Yet, though man glanced on him disdainful eyes,
God had built up his nature for the skies;
His heart was mighty, though his path was
low—

Man made the cloud—God tinged it with his
bow.

And thus it is; the humble lifted up;
The pearl oft decks the lowest of the cup.
Fame doffs aside the Sovereign of a day
To make a Shakespeare King with endless
sway;

Genius, from wealth and titled grandeur, turns
To touch as with live flame the tongue of Burns.

And thus though Williams' eye but saw the rim
Of the low valley, where alone for him
Life's pathway upward led, his mental sight
Flashed with the Eagle's from the mountain
height;

And when the bribe was proffered, off he turned,
And with a scornful wrath the base temptation
spurned.

Well, well for us, worth, honor were not sold
By this high patriot heart for British gold!
Treason had woven his most cunning coil
Around our land, its liberty the spoil;
The British Lion stood with hungry gloat
To flesh his fangs within the victim's throat;
And had the glittering bribe its errand wrought,
Treason had found the victory he sought,
And the fierce Lion fastened in his spring
Our Eagle's glazing eye, and drooping, dying
wing.

Oh, Treason, foulest demon earth has seen,
Darkening ev'n darkness with his midnight
mien!

How oft his spell has fettered Freedom's brand!
And, for a smiling, left a blighted land!
In vain has Liberty uprisen;—unbound
Her glorious folds to call her sons around!
In vain the crag has burst out into hordes,
Trees into lances, thickets into swords!

In vain the cataract's white has turned to red,
And the wind's murmuring to the war-cry dread!
The dingle's sylvan stillness, where the bird
Sprang to its wing if but a leaflet stirred,
Changed to the tramp of steeds, the clang of
arms,

The grassy music to War's wild alarms!
In vain, in vain, the blood in vain that ran
While the soul soaring lifted up the man!
In vain has Liberty with reverent head
Heaped to one altar all her sainted dead,
And kneeling there fought sword in hand, till
down

Her foes have fallen, and she but grasped her
crown!

Like a fell serpent Treason low has crept
In patriot garb, till oft disguise he swept
Striking his blow with such sure aim, his cry
Of triumph drowned his victim's dying sigh.
Oh mountain peaks, where clouds were cannon-
smoke!

Oh glens, whose green light battle-banners
broke!

Oh waves, whose tossings broadside-thunders
crushed!

Oh skies, whose tempests strife's wild tumults
hushed!

All spots where man for native land has fought,
Have ye not seen how Treason's curse has
wrought?

How the broad front that Freedom reared to foe,
Has felt base Treason creeping from below,
Close twining round herself and sons till she
A grand Laocoon has died to Treachery?

But pæans to brave Williams, and the two,
 Van Wart and Paulding! no such fate we rue.
 Song to the Three! our whole broad land
 should raise

One sounding anthem to their patriot praise!
 For had base Arnold's treason won, we now
 Perchance, instead of jewels on our brow,
 Jewels of freedom, with our doom content,
 Under some kingly bondage might have bent,
 Native or foreign; or like those wild seas
 Of tropic States, have surged to every breeze,
 Dashing in endless strife—for freedom here,
 And here, for kings, until some ruthless spear
 The war had ended, and a waste of graves
 Upheld a Despot's throne, and ours a land of
 slaves.

Now—hail the sight!—a realm of glorious pride
 Touching earth's mightiest oceans either side!
 Pine meeting Palm in garlands round her head,
 Starred States, striped climates o'er her banner
 spread,

Great Washington diffused; his spirit grand
 Incarnate in the person of our land!

In this green valley where war wildest reigned,
 Where life's red current every harvest stained,
 Where peace contrasting, now the brightest
 glows,

And place of battle's thistle, smiles the rose,
 Where builds the bird within the shattered
 shell,

Plumped with soft moss, that slew where'er it
 fell,

Where the blue violet yields the skull its eye,
 Instead of strife's close ranks, upstands the rye,
 Where waves the wheat whence savage plumage
 flashed,

And oft avenging Murphy's rifle crashed
 By this Stone Fort that once threw back the
 tide

Of conflict as its surges smote its side,
 This day our patriot's ashes we consign
 To his loved earth henceforth a sacred shrine,
 Round which to latest years our grateful hearts
 shall twine.

Now on this flowering of our Century Tree,
 Apotheosis of our history,
 This famed Centennial, it is passing well
 Of patriot hearts and patriot deeds to tell,
 That they in memory's grasp should firmly
 cling

As gold in quartz, or pearls in shells, and fling
 Like stars, a lustre o'er our Nation's way,
 Till Time's grand sun shall set, and dawns Eter-
 nal Day.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS,

BY DR. DANIEL KNOWER.

This large concourse of people, this fine military display, the presence of these distinguished persons, and the attendance of so many ladies to grace the occasion, show that the recollection of patriotic deeds does not die out in the hearts of a free people. David Williams, one of the captors of Major Andre, in honor of whose memory we are assembled here to-day, was born in Tarrytown, Westchester county, in this State, October 21, 1754. He entered the Revolutionary army in 1775, at the age of nineteen; fought under Montgomery at the battle of St. Johns and Quebec; and continued in the regular patriot services until 1779. The capture of Major Andre occurred on the 23d of September, 1780, ninety-six years ago to-day.

David Williams was the eldest of the three captors—he being twenty-five years of age, and John Paulding and Isaac Van Wart, his compatriots, being about twenty years old. The following is Williams' account of the capture, as related to Judge Tiffany, at his home in this County, February 13, 1817:—

"The three [militiamen] were seated beside the road in the bushes, amusing themselves at cards, when their attention was arrested by the galloping of a horse. On approaching the road they saw a gentleman riding toward them, seated on a large brown horse, which was afterward observed to have marked on the near shoulder the initials U. C. A. The rider was a

light, trim-built man, about five feet seven inches in height, with a bold military countenance and dark eyes, and was dressed in a tall beaver hat, surtout, crimson coat, with pantaloons and vest of nankeen. As he neared them, the three cocked their muskets and aimed at the rider, who immediately checked his horse." * * * * *

[Here Mr. Knower narrated the conversation held between the captors and Andre, as published on pages 136 and 137 of this work, and thus concluded:—]

The circumstances of the capture as narrated in the testimony of Paulding and Williams, given at the trial of Smith eleven days after the capture, and written down by the Judge Advocate at the time, is substantially the same. Williams in his testimony there says: "He said he would give us any quantity of dry goods, or any sum of money, and bring it to any place that we might pitch upon, so that we might get it. Mr. Paulding answered, No, if you should give us 10,000 guineas you should not stir one step."

The importance of the capture of Andre can never be too highly estimated. The plan for cutting the Colonies in two on the line of the Hudson and Lake Champlain had been foiled by the capture of Burgoyne. The possession of West Point would have given a successful opportunity for prosecuting the same design. No wonder that Washington burst into tears when he learned of the treason of Arnold. He

very well knew what had been our danger, and how narrow had been our escape. Washington wrote to Congress, September 28, 1780—three days after the capture—saying: "I do not know the party that took Major Andre, but it is said that it consisted of only a few militia, who acted in such a manner upon the occasion as does them the highest honor, and proves them of great virtue. As soon as I know their names I shall take pleasure in transmitting them to Congress." Again, October 7, 1780, he writes Congress, transmitting the findings of the Court, which had tried Andre, and in his letter he says: "I have now the pleasure to communicate the names of those persons who captured Major Andre, and who refused to release him, notwithstanding the most earnest importunities and assurances of a liberal reward on his part. Their names are John Paulding, David Williams and Isaac VanWart." Alexander Hamilton, writing in 1780, of the affair, says: "Andre tempted their integrity with the offer of his watch, his horse, and any sum of money they should name. They rejected his offer with disdain."

Congress gave each of them \$1,250, or the same value in confiscated lands in Westchester county, a pension of \$200, and a silver medal. The medals were presented to the captors by General Washington, at a dinner to which he invited them while the army was encamped near Ver Planck's Point; the one presented to David Williams being now in possession of his oldest grandson, William C. Williams, of this County.*

David Williams was married to Miss Benedict, of Westchester county, by whom he had one son named David, who has seven children living, four in this County, two in Iowa, and one in Virginia, who are worthy descendants in honor and integrity of the Revolutionary patriot. He moved to this County in 1806, and died August

2, 1831, aged seventy-seven, and was buried at Livingstonville, with military honors, where his remains reposed for forty-five years, and until the 4th of March, 1876, when they were removed to the cemetery at Rensselaerville. On the 19th of July, they were removed to the Stone Fort in Schoharie, to which destination they were escorted by a large procession, headed by the American flag, and amid martial music. All places of business were closed; the bells tolled, and the cannon at the Fort fired a salute as his coffin, wrapped in the American flag, was deposited near his present resting place.

On the 1st of May, 1876, the Governor signed the following bill introduced by Senator Lamont, it having passed both Houses:

"For erecting a suitable monument in the cemetery grounds of the revolutionary Stone Fort at Schoharie Court House, to commemorate the virtues and memory of David Williams, one of the captors of Major Andre, the sum of two thousand dollars, to be expended under the supervision of Daniel Knower, Ralph Brewster, supervisor of the town of Schoharie, and Charles Holmes, county judge of Schoharie county, who are hereby appointed a commission for that purpose, and who are hereby authorized to remove the remains of the said David Williams from their present burial in the cemetery at Rensselaerville, to such cemetery at Schoharie Court House, upon first obtaining the consent thereto, in writing, of a majority of the descendants of said Williams, and upon furnishing proof thereof to the comptroller; but in case such consent in writing for said removal shall not be obtained, and proof thereof furnished the comptroller within two months from the passage of this act, then the above appropriation shall be expended by a commission, consisting of the comptroller of the State, Erastus D. Palmer, and the President of the Rensselaerville Cemetery Association, for the

*It has since been placed in the State Library at Albany.

erection of the monument in the Rensselaerville cemetery."

Paulding is buried near Peekskill, and a monument was erected over his remains by the corporation of the city of New York in 1827. Near Tarrytown the remains of Isaac Van Wart are honored by a monument erected by the county of Westchester. And now in this centennial year has the State of New York recognized by its Legislature and Governor, this most important event in our Revolutionary history; an event which occurred within its borders, and in which three of her sons had the honor, by their disinterested patriotism and love of country, to save our country in that important crisis of our Revolutionary history. General Washington wrote to the President of Congress, October 7, 1780, two weeks after the capture:—"Their conduct merits our warmest esteem; and I beg leave to add that I think the public would do well to allow them a handsome gratuity. They have prevented in all probability our suffering one of the severest strokes that could have been meditated against us." Yet this one of the most disinterested acts of patriotism and love of country recorded in history, strange to say, has been attacked and the motives of the actors impugned.

A bill passed Congress some years since appropriating \$20,000 for erecting a monument to them, but did not reach, or was defeated in the Senate. The patriotism of these men has been impugned by members of Congress. This bill was likewise opposed in the State Senate by a senator from New York City on the same grounds. In the language of the poet,

"He who ascends to mountain tops must find
The loftiest hills clad in snow;
He who surpasses and excels mankind
Must see and feel their hate below."

Williams lived to be seventy-seven years old and died fifty-two years after the event occurred. Isaac Van Wart lived to the age of sixty-nine

and died forty-nine years after the event, and John Paulding reached the age of sixty, dying forty years after the capture. All three during these long years bore unimpeachable characters for honor and integrity, which would not have been possible if they had been marauders and freebooters as represented by those who impugned their motives.

Williams, previous to this event, had served four years in the Revolutionary army, and Paulding, only three days previous to the capture, had made his escape from the Sugar House British prison in New York. These facts indicate beyond all doubt on which side their feelings were.

Andre has a monument erected in Westminster Abbey, which is the highest honor that can be conferred on the remains of any person in England. His remains were removed from this country in a coffin mounted with gold. His brother was created a Knight, in honor of his services in this affair, by the King of England.

What were the services Andre rendered to England, compared with the services these three disinterested patriots rendered to this country? Let it not always be said that Republics are ungrateful. Even the motives of the men who commenced the Revolution by throwing the tea overboard in Boston harbor, and the motives of those who fought the battles of Bunker Hill and Lexington were attacked. It has been said that their grievances from Great Britain did not justify a resort to such measures. These men knew that if they yielded one point guaranteed to them in the liberal charters that had been granted to the Colonies, as an inducement for them to emigrate to this country when a wilderness, that America would become a second Ireland, and all the rights guaranteed to them in their charters would be crushed out. If I have any pride of ancestry, it is in being descended from the men who took part in the

glorious events where the cannon first thundered in the War of the Revolution.

Your commissioners propose to make an appeal to any county, city, association, literary club or individual, who may subscribe not less than \$200 or more than \$1,800, in addition to the \$2,000 appropriated by the State, and to have the names of the subscribers inscribed on one of the faces of the monument or on a marble tablet to be erected in the Fort, as the artists who may design the monument may think most appropriate. It is proposed to appoint one or more of the most distinguished artists and sculptors in the State to design the monument and make it a work of art appropriate to the event.

We are now one hundred years old as a nation. Our material prosperity and growth is unparalleled in history. For the sake of the future and the perpetuity of our free institutions, we should cultivate sentiments that will inspire in the youth a strong love of country. What more appropriate occasion than the present to

erect here a work of art, which will call attention for all time to the disinterested patriotism of these three men who saved our country in the Revolution? It was such men among our common soldiers that enabled the country to produce a Washington. The people, the source and fountain of political power, must be kept pure and patriotic if we wish to perpetuate our republican form of government. The more we learn from the men of the Revolution, and the more strictly we adhere to the great principles inaugurated in our government by its founders, the better for the future of our country. Although the disinterested patriotism of these three men has conferred its benefits on a great nation of 44,000,000 of people, yet the Empire State of New York enjoys the honor of having had the event occur within its own borders. I feel that her sons and daughters will respond to an appeal for the erection of a work of art, in this beautiful valley of Schoharie, beside this Revolutionary Fort, that will do justice to this important event, and in which we all may take a just pride.

WHEN it became known that General Washington was firm, not interceding in behalf of Andre and releasing him in exchange for prominent officers and citizens held by the British, nor suspending the usual custom of hanging a spy and adopting some other mode that was considered more honorable to his rank and station,—the British and Tory element at once began a series of vituperations against Washington through the Tory press and both private and public written missives. Their greatest accusation against the patriot was his being a hard-hearted and obstinate tyrant whom the patriots were cautioned to trust no longer, as he would be as unmerciful to their liberties, if the

patriots' cause should succeed, as he was in answering the last request of a dying soldier and gentleman. Soon after the execution, the same press and other sources began to speculate upon the motives of the faithful three in delivering Andre to the Continental powers. When it was ascertained that the three were but common yeomen and thus faithfully performed a duty that transcended in politic as well as manly principle any that their scion of royalty had performed—although long pampered by opportunities and superior discipline—the allied enemies of our cause at once began to stigmatize the lives and conduct of the captors. They accused them of being low in morals, recreant

in duty, and above all, made the charge that Andre could have purchased his freedom if he had had enough money with him. From that day to the present, the same charges have been re-iterated, it seems periodically through the press of our country—by this and that one, here and there, and as often received its share of conversational notice and died away. The facts of the whole transaction were given before the scrutinizing military court before the execution of Andre and he failed to contradict a single assertion. The fact of his offering the three 10,000 guineas to release him was there brought out. If they did not desire to release him and still willingly accepted the promised money, they could have held him until the amount was delivered or any other sum they might have named, as gold was secondary to the British when West Point was in the scales. The military court investigated the whole and transmitted it to Congress who weighed the matter well and pronounced the three—such as they were, “true patriots” and voted them a sum for their fidelity. Before that careful and able body was another epistle, from one who knew well the whole transaction. It was Washington’s letter speaking in the highest praise of the three.

It is pleasing to all who are sensitive to such base charges against those whose acts have made American history so full of examples of heroic principle, that all the charges have emanated from untrustworthy sources as sensational newspaper correspondents, who for lack of matter willingly rake over the embers of hatred and suspicion to find material for a shadow of a theme, and from those in whose bosoms, as then, still rankles the dislike to republican institutions and the bold spirits that dare maintain, by life and fortunes, the “inalienable rights” of man, which the grand old Declaration of Independence vouchsafed, and the blood, treasures, and untold privations of true

patriots purchased. But a few years since, in October, 1880, a writer, claiming unjustly the name of Williams, also to be a grandson of David Williams, wrote a letter to the *Detroit Free Press* impugning the motives of the patriot in the capture of Andre, which caused several communications between historical scholars and revived the old charges. The comments of the *Press* letter were as follows:—

L. K. Williams of Syracuse, N. Y., a grandson of David Williams one of the captors of Major Andre, writes to the *Free Press* an exceedingly interesting letter about Andre’s capture that corroborates a charge once made, that his captors were not the very purest sort of patriots. The following is Mr. Williams’ letter:—

“I have cut from yesterday’s issue of the *Syracuse Evening Herald* the following paragraph: The *Detroit Free Press* says: ‘The three men who captured Andre were playing cards in the bushes as he rode up. Had they not come there to play cards he would have escaped and our country been lost. Let us take the right bower of hearts for our national ensign.’

“Being familiar with the fact that those three men were playing cards I will say a few words more about it. My grandmother, the wife of David Williams, died in Cayuga county, this State, about thirty years ago. I have listened to her stories many a night about the old Revolutionary war and among others she would tell all about Andre and his captors.

“She seemed to know Paulding and Van Wart personally. She said that the three were playing cards, and that their business in the bush was a sort of guerilla expedition, watching whom they might devour, and according to her belief, they cared but little whether their captives were friends or foes. It was plunder that they were after, and if Andre had had a little money he could have passed on.

“Williams and Van Wart would have let

him pass, on his promise to send any amount of money. After he got the two willing, he became a little saucy with Paulding, and here is where he missed his figure. It seemed that Paulding was the leader, and he got mad and was ready to fight the whole three, and even told Andre to come out and fight him, and if he proved the best man he could then pass along. Andre had only a few dollars and a nice watch with him, which could not well be divided with the party, and they concluded to take him to the American camp, as he told them if he could see Arnold he would satisfy them well, but when they got to the American camp they found different men from cow-boys to deal with. They found Arnold, but he immediately left for the *Vulture*, in the river.

"These are facts which history does not give in this light. It is forty or fifty years ago that old Granny told us about this transaction and about laying in the scrubwood, in the Mohawk river, when Schenectady was burning."

"L. K. WILLIAMS."

Such base libel upon integrity and fidelity has often appeared, with no better foundation. The writer assumes to be a grandson of David Williams, whose name and character stand in history as the brightest. This assumed grandson, unasked, stoops to belittle the family name, the bright character and fame of *his* grandfather, by throwing mud upon it! If the charges were true, and L. K. Williams was a grandson, he has truly inherited the low principles he wishes to be understood, David Williams possessed, and those principles actuated the foregoing letter. But let us see how far facts prove L. K. Williams to be what he assumes. The letter was brought to the notice of the New York State Librarian, who drew the attention of Dr. D. Knower of Schoharie, chairman of the "Williams Monument Commissioners." Dr. Knower immediately indited the fol-

lowing to the *Free Press*, but did not receive notice by publication:—

"SCHOHARIE, Dec. 30, 1880.

"DEAR SIR.—Our State Librarian, D. H. A. Homes, at Albany, called my attention to an article from your paper, of October 23, 1880, in relation to the captors of Major Andre. He was desirous I should reply to it. The article was dated at Syracuse, and signed L. K. Williams, who claimed to be a grandson of the captor; that he had listened to the stories of his grandmother about the Revolution, and this event; that she was personally acquainted with Paulding and VanWart, and corroborated the charge that those captors were not actuated by patriotic motives; * * * that she died about thirty years ago, and was buried in Cayuga county.

"I am personally acquainted with all the grandchildren of David Williams, and with his only son's widow, their mother.

"David Williams was married to Miss Benedict, of Westchester county, N. Y. They moved to this County in 1806, and had but one child, a son, named David. This son married a Miss Hess, who is now, at the age of eighty, living in this County. They had seven children, three sons and four daughters. The sons are William C., Daniel, (who resides in this County), and Myron, of Marion county, Iowa, who are the only grandchildren of the captor. So it is not true that L. K. Williams is a grandson nor is it true that the wife of David Williams, whom he falsely claims to be his grandmother, is buried in Cayuga county. They were both buried at Livingstonville, in this County, and as a Commissioner of the State, under authority of the Comptroller, I had their remains exhumed and removed to the grounds of the Stone Fort at this place, where they now repose under a monument erected by the State of New York. There unfortunately have been among our historians,

controversies for nearly one hundred years, in relation to the purity of the motives of those captors. From a thorough investigation of the subject, I have no doubt of the disinterested patriotism of those three men, and the inestimable benefit they conferred on our country, no one can question. They may be said to have saved it in the very crisis of the Revolution, and I am satisfied that those attacks on the purity of their motives have no more foundation than the untruthful statements of your correspondent signed L. K. Williams. While the State of New York may take a just pride in having had that event occur within her borders, it has conferred its benefit on this great nation of 50,000,000 of people. Our Republican form of Government cannot be perpetuated alone by politicians. It must have for its foundation the love of country, the inspiration derived from the patriotic sentiments of the people, which the honoring and

cherishing of those Revolutionary events are well calculated to cultivate."

"DANIEL KNOWER."

The writer has been assured by aged people who were well acquainted with Mrs David Williams that she always lived within the County after the family removed here, and therefore was never a resident of Cayuga county. It will thus be seen that L. K. Williams' statement is untrue and that if his grandmother ever related such statements to him as the wife of David Williams she was an imposter and in weighing the assertion that she witnessed the burning of Schenectady (1690) and died about thirty years ago (1850) we are led to believe such was her standing, and that she was a remarkable woman to retain her memory so "vividly" at the age of one hundred and sixty years! Still, such charges by such people often receive credence as "facts untold by history!"

NAMES OF CITIZENS

WHO ASSISTED AND CONTRIBUTED TOWARD THE PUBLICATION OF THE HISTORY OF SCHOHARIE
COUNTY, WITH PERSONAL STATISTICS.

BROOME.

Almy Arnold T., p o Franklinton, farmer, born in Albany county, December 30, 1839, settled in county in 1831; wife Lucy, travee of county, born in 1821, married in 1842; children six—Erastus C., William, Asa, Arnold, Ellsworth, and Alonzo. Parents John and Anna Almy.

Armlin John S., p o Franklinton, farmer, 200 acres, born in county in 1810; wife Mary A. Frasier, born in 1806, married in February, 1867, died February 6, 1871; second wife Jennie Fullington, of county, married in 1871; children one—Leonard. Parents Henry and Margaret (Wainright) Armlin of county. Grandfather John Armlin was one of the first settlers in the town of Broome.

Borthwick Robert, p o Livingstonville, born in county, in 1798; wife Anna Bushnell, of county, born in 1802, married in 1822, died in 1881; children four, three daughters and one son—Arthur B., who was born in 1838, married Libbie Hummell, of Delaware county, in 1869; children one—Carrie. Parents George and Nancy Borthwick.

Borthwick William, p o Hunter's Land, farmer, born in county, in 1825, has been collector and justice of peace; wife Maria, daughter of Jonathan and Sally Russell, married in 1846; children three—James M., born in 1849, Rev. M. W., in 1850, and Alice in 1857. Parents James and Delinda Borthwick, the former was the first white child born on "Scott's Patent," born July 18, 1791, died February 19, 1880, and the latter died in 1878, aged 80 years. Grandfather George Borthwick born in Scotland, settled in county in 1773, died in 1851.

Borthwick Alexander, p o Livingstonville, farmer, 137 acres, born in county in 1812; wife Ann M., daughter of Alexander and Vilette Borthwick, born in 1809, married in 1832. Father George Borthwick, born in Scotland. Grandfather James B. Borthwick lived in Middleburgh during the Revolution, died in 1821, aged 87 years.

Brayman William H., p o Livingstonville, farmer, 156 acres, born in county in 1801, has been justice of peace; wife Alzina, daughter of Rev. Loren and Charlotte Cole, married in October, 1862; children five—Irvin L., Agnes, Otis, Charlotte, and Fred. Parents Benjamin and Nancy Brayman.

Brayman Benjamin, p o Livingstonville, born in county in 1807, has held several town offices; wife Nancy Borthwick, of county, born in December, 1816, married in 1831, children nine. Father William Brayman, born in Dutchess county, came to county in 1794, died August 17, 1856, aged 90 years; wife Rebecca Delimater, born in Columbia county, died in February, 1857, aged 70 years.

Brayman Dr. Edgar E., p o Livingstonville, physician, born in county in 1856, was graduated from New York Medical College in 1880; wife Alice D. Rivenburgh, of county, married in 1875; children three.

Brayman A., p o Livingstonville, born in county in 1850, manufacturer and dealer in furniture and undertaking, firm of Benjamin & Brayman, commenced business in 1880; wife Emma C. Campbell, of county, married in 1872.

Breeze Abraham, p o Franklinton, proprietor of steam saw mill, born in county in 1834; wife Helen M. Sornborger, of county, married in 1866, children two—Cora and Henry. Planing mill was built in 1867, run by steam, 15 horse power. Also has cabinet rooms and cider-mil. Parents John and Livina Breeze.

Couchman David, p o Livingstonville, farmer, born in Albany county, in 1837; wife Lydia Haskin, of county, married in 1859, children one—Harriet E., born in 1860, died in 1876. Parents David and Catharine Couchman, of Albany county. Obediah and Elizabeth (Bull) Haskin, of county, parents of Lydia, the former born in 1801, and the latter in 1802, married in 1824.

Ellis George W., p o Livingstonville, farmer, born in county, in 1829, has been supervisor; wife Harriet C. Drake, of Albany county, born in 1830, married December, 1, 1850; children seven—Albert, Joseph, Irving, Georgiana, Grosvenor, Omar, and Lillian. Parents, Hasselas and Margaret M. Ellis, the former of county and the latter of Albany county.

Gifford Luther H., p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in Albany county, in 1844, settled in county, in 1859, wife Mary, daughter of Nicholas and Priscilla Miller, born in 1843, married in 1862; children nine—six sons and three daughters. Father David Gifford was born in Albany county, in 1812, came to county in 1839; wife Fernelia Kelsey, born in Oneida county in 1836, married in 1841.

Hagadorn Stephen, p o Livingstonville, farmer, born in county in 1815; wife Hannah Baldwin, of Greene county, born in 1824, married in 1847, children two—Betsey and Elsworth. Father Charles Hagadorn born in Columbia county in 1780, came to county in 1810; wife Mary Taylor, of Greene county, married in 1830, children twelve, living six.

Haskin W. Titus, p o Potter's Hollow, Albany county, farmer, 200 acres, born in county in 1830, has been assessor; wife Phebe E. Hagadorn, married in 1862, children six—four sons, and two daughters. Parents Obediah and Elizabeth Haskin. Grandparents Moses and Hannah Haskin were born in Dutchess county, settled in county in 1800.

Haskin Joseph, p o Potter's Hollow, farmer, 130 acres, born in county in 1836; wife Huldah S. Palmer, born in county 1829, married in 1862, children one, an adopted son—Charles, born in 1859. Parents Orpheus and Phebe (Tibbetts) Haskin, the former of Dutchess and the latter of Schoharie county.

Houtfailing David, p o Franklinton, farmer, 94 acres, born in county in 1822; wife Clarinda Porter, born in county in 1816, married in 1836, children six—Chauncey, John W., Harmon, William L., Catharine E., and Rosette. Chauncey Houtfailing born in 1853, wife Irena Armlin, married in 1873, children one.

Kniffen Alfred, p o Franklinton, farmer, 100 acres, born May 4, 1826; wife Elizabeth Moore, born in county in 1832, married in 1849; children three. Parents Schubel and Margaret Kniffen.

Lamont Peter, p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in county in 1833, wife Esther, daughter of Ostrande and Elizabeth Simpson, of Ulster county, married in October, 1868, children two. Parents Major and Maria Matice Lamont, of county.

Loseu Myron A., p o Livingstonville, general merchant, born in Greene county, in 1830, settled in county in 1851, has been postmaster and supervisor; wife Mary J. Mace, born in county, married in 1863, children two—Eva, and Mary Mace. Father Samuel Loseu of Greene county, commenced the mercantile business in 1850, and erected present store at that time.

Mace Hiram L., p o Livingstonville, farmer and retired carpenter and builder, born in county in 1821; wife Margaret A. Austin, of Greene county, born in 1826, married in 1841, children four. Father Hiram Mace born in Dutchess county in 1790, came to county in 1791, died in 1872, wife Clarissa Worden, of Dutchess county, born in 1793, married in 1812; children ten, living six. Grandfather Joseph Mace, born in Dutchess county, settled in county in 1791; wife Mary Gillette, of Connecticut.

Miller Jacob B., p o Frankinton, farmer, 100 acres, born in Albany county, in 1829, settled in county in 1846; wife Emily J., daughter of Palmer and Eleanor Lord, born in county in 1830, married in 1855, children two—Frances L. and Mayham L.

Palmer Cornell, p o Hunters' Land, farmer and proprietor of stone quarry, turn-lane curbing and flagging for market, born in Schoharie in 1827; wife Mary Pausley, of county, married in 1849, died in 1861, children four—Ophelia, Asa, Rosa, and Albert; second wife Mary Hager, married in 1865. Father Moses Palmer, born in Dutchess county, served in the war of 1812; wife Sarah Palmer, born in Rhode Island, grandfather Samuel Palmer, served in the Revolutionary war five years.

Porter Daniel, p o Breakabeen, 12 acres, born in county March 11, 1815, wife Julia A. Griswood, of Rensselaer county, born in 1829, married in 1849, children seven—Orson, Orson, Richard H., Omar, Helen M., Mary, and Lucinda. Omar married Betsy Campbell, of county, in 1880. Parents William and Hannah Wines, Potter of county.

Phelps Newton, p o Potter's Hollow, Albany county, farmer, 127 1/2 acres, born in county, in 1829, has been justice of peace; wife Jane Goodell, of county, married in 1858, died in 1878. Parents Cyrus and Olive Smith Phelps, of Connecticut.

Russell Reuben, p o Potter's Hollow, farmer, 112 acres; born in Albany county in 1829, settled in county in 1850; wife Julia Ann Hubbard, born in county in 1816, married in 1850, children one—an adopted son—Omar. Parents Allen and Mary Russell, of Albany county, formerly of Connecticut.

Rugg George S., p o Frankinton, born in Albany county in 1813, settled in county in 1868, has been assessor; wife Hannah, of Greece, born in Vermont, married in 1861, children two—Homer and Priscilla. Parents, Daniel and Caroline Rugg, of Greene county.

Smith Hiram L., p o Potter's Hollow, farmer, born in Albany county in 1847, settled in county in 1850, has been overseer of poor; wife Althina, daughter of David and Reba Nickerson, of county.

Turner Harry C., p o Hunters' Land, farmer, 15 acres, born in county in 1841, has been assessor; wife Zilpha, daughter of William and Minna Potter, of county, born in 1850, married in 1861. Father Caleb Turner was born in Connecticut; wife Olive Taylor, of Schoharie county.

Wilsey Wilkeson, merchant and farmer, born in county in 1812, died April 6, 1875, was member of assembly, and supervisor; wife Mary E. Prior, of Greene, born in 1822, married January 15, 1848, children seven by first wife. Jabez Prior, father of Mary E., born in Greenfield, Hartford county, Connecticut, came to county in 1821, died January 17, 1880; wife Betsey Prior died May 14, 1871.

Wislie George W., p o Potter's Hollow, farmer, born in county in 1841, has been assessor; wife Ann Palmer, born in county in 1843; married in 1865; children two—Hattie E. and Verge E. Father Andrew Wislie born in Dutchess county in 1799, died in 1871; wife Eleanor Hay born in county in 1805, married in 1825, children nine.

BLENHEIM.

Badgley John, born in Coeymans, Albany county, October 9, 1787, settled in county in 1811; wife E. Bollar, of Albany county; one child—Stephen G., who married M. F. Perry, of Gilboa, and lives in North Blenheim.

Badgley S. W., p o Blenheim.

Baldwin J. R., p o North Blenheim, farmer, 208 acres, born in South Worcester, Otsego county, December 31, 1821, settled in county, October 20, 1855, has been justice of peace and overseer of poor; wife Rachel Barnum, of Delaware county, married December 22, 1842; children three—James W., Ira B., and A. D. V. Fredius, father of J. R. died August 18, 1856, in Delaware county.

Champlin Giles S., p o North Blenheim, farmer, 120 acres, born in Blenheim February 7, 1813, has been justice of peace and supervisor; wife Catharine J. Wallace, of Dutchess county; children six—Lucinda M., Perry, Jane, Henry, Emma, Giles S., Jr. Father of Giles S., Jeffrey W., moved to county from Rhode Island.

Champlin J. Perry, p o North Blenheim, farmer, 137 acres, born in Blenheim October 19, 1812, has been justice of peace; wife Elizabeth Hubbard, married November 20, 1857; children four—Minnie F., Barton G., J. Raymond, H. Norman.

Clark J. A., p o North Blenheim, farmer, 255 acres, born in Rhode Island March 10, 1819, settled in county in 1858; wife Catharine Vandervort; children eight—Almon W., Abada, Linden, Le Grand, Le Grange, (the latter two twins,) Fremont F., John Jr., and Ida M.

Cornell J. M., p o Embury, farmer, 30 acres, born in Blenheim November 11, 1812, has been assessor and justice of peace; wife Eliza A. Vandusen, of Albany county, married September 13, 1834; children four living—Daniel, Mary A., Catharine, Jane.

Granby William M., p o North Blenheim, farmer, 500 acres, born in Blenheim January 28, 1837, has been lieutenant in artillery, commissioner of schools, and overseer of poor; wife Susan Badgley, of Albany county, married February 18, 1859; children five—Alexander, Winnam, George, Jane, and Eleanor.

Granby George, p o North Blenheim, farmer, 100 acres, born in Blenheim October 15, 1811, has been supervisor and commissioner of highways.

Hager William S., p o North Blenheim, farmer, 15 acres, born in Middleburgh October 13, 1812; wife May C. Kirkern, of Blenheim.

Hager J. A., p o North Blenheim, farmer, 200 acres, born in Blenheim April 4, 1827, has been justice of peace and supervisor; wife Julia A. Shafer, of Middleburgh; children three—Elizabeth, who married P. W. Carl, of Blenheim; Anna, who married Daniel H. Stitzer, of Blenheim; and David.

Hager D. W. C., p o North Blenheim, farmer, born in Blenheim July 1, 1813, has been county superintendent of poor, assessor, and commissioner of highways; first wife Susan A. Hager; children three—Emily A., Caroline L., and O. H. P.; second wife Caroline H. Fink. Father, Simon, was son of Jacob Hager, who died in 1796, aged 95 years, and was buried in the cemetery in Fulton.

Hager E. D., p o North Blenheim, general dealer, born in Middleburgh May 21, 1817, has been supervisor; wife Nellie E. Beckwith, of Massachusetts, married November 16, 1856; children one—Eugene Beck with. Father, Daniel J. Hager, was born in Schoharie.

Haverly Ira H., p o North Blenheim, farmer and merchant, 160 acres, born in Middleburgh May 11, 1822, wife Mary E. Furman, of Middleburgh; children six—George B., Elmer C., Rosetta, Almira I., Alice, and Frederick. Ira H. Haverly is dealer in dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, hats, caps, crockery, glassware, notions, and clothing, and produce is taken in exchange for goods.

Haverly Seneca, p o North Blenheim, manufacturer of lumber, 18 acres, born in Middleburgh April 21, 1833; wife Sophia C. West, of Albany county; children four—Laura A., West, DeWitt C., and Almada. Seneca Haverly manufactures shingles, circular saws and mouldings. He keeps lumber on hand for sale, also broom handles and all kinds of lathe work.

Haverly David M., p o North Blenheim, miller and lumber dealer, 150 acres, born in Middleburgh March 24, 1833; wife Rebecca A. Van Auker, married December 23, 1863; children six—Loren, Laura, Ellis, Edward, Jacob, and Elizabeth. David M. Haverly bought out the interest of Seneca in the mill in 1875. The mill contains three runs of stone and has a steady water power supplied by dam and race from Schoharie creek.

Kingsley Edwin, p o North Blenheim, farmer, 80 acres, born in Blenheim April 11, 1833, has been town clerk and supervisor; wife Jane Granby, of Blenheim, married in October, 1856; children one—Ashley G.

Kling Nicholas H., p. o. North Blenheim, farmer, 300 acres, born in Sharon January 11, 1815, has been commissioner of highways and superintendent of schools; first wife Ann E. Keyser, married June 9, 1845; children three—David, Madison, and Arthur; second wife Miranda Sherman, married February 12, 1867.

Near Samuel, p. o. North Blenheim, farmer, 100 acres, born in Summit July 11, 1816, has been supervisor; wife Mary A. Smith, of Otsego county, married in December, 1855; children nine—Hannah M., Helen J., who married George W. Conroy, of Richmondville; S. H., Adelbert M., Adolphus P., Fannie E., Mary A., who married George K. Wormer, of Fulton; Almeta T., and Emma.

Parslow Alonzo, p. o. North Blenheim, merchant, owns 25 acres land and the Blenheim House, born in Blenheim July 2, 1811, has been town clerk and postmaster; wife Julia A. Martin, of Blenheim, married October 22, 1855; children seven—Frederick N., Barna A., George, Eugene, Jessie, Hoyt, and Harry. Father, Henry Parslow, was born in Fulton.

Peaslee Clyde O., p. o. South Jefferson, farmer, 176 acres, born in Blenheim January 15, 1858; wife Hattie E. Clark, of Blenheim, married July 9, 1879.

Peaslee N. S., p. o. North Blenheim, farmer and dairyman, 192 acres, has been town clerk and supervisor; wife Ruth Conklin, of Albany county, married March 13, 1842; children two, one living—Fannie B., who married W. S. Jones, of Westerlo, Albany county, and has one child, Fred P.

Peaslee Thomas, born in Connecticut October 16, 1782, settled in county in 1807; died December 13, 1857; wife Eunice Babcock, of Westerlo, Albany county, married about 1804; children seven, three now living—T. S., J. B., and N. S. Thomas Peaslee is buried in the Peaslee cemetery on the farm of N. S. Peaslee.

Peaslee T. S., p. o. North Blenheim, farmer, 200 acres, born in Westerlo, Albany county, June 24, 1806, settled in county in September, 1807, has been town superintendent of schools; wife Mahaley Curtis, of Schoenectady county, married September 12, 1830; children ten, living two—Isaac and Thomas, the former of whom married Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. John Cornwall, of Gilboa, and has three children—Amy, Ida, and Howard.

Shafer Jacob D., p. o. Breakabeen, farmer, 100 acres, born in Blenheim, February 27, 1815, has been assessor three years; wife Christina Zoh; children living, nine—Gideon, Jane Ann, Catharine, Albert, Joseph, Walter, Mary, William, and Edward. Father, Gerrit Shafer, was born on farm now occupied by Jacob D.

Sternbergh M. B., p. o. North Blenheim, school teacher, born in Schenectady July 25, 1852; wife Leeta A. Winnie, married October 26, 1877.

Vroman John B., p. o. Mine Kill Falls, farmer, 300 acres, born in Blenheim December 18, 1818, has been superintendent of schools, justice of peace, postmaster; wife Maria Welch of Poughkeepsie, married May 23, 1840; children eight—William H., John W., who was killed at the battle of Gettysburg, James A., Julia A., Phoebe J., Charles L., Jesse P., and Maria L. Father, James P. Vroman, moved from Albany county.

Vroman Josiah H., p. o. North Blenheim, physician and surgeon, has practiced thirty-four years, born in Fulton October 3, 1818, has been town superintendent of schools and overseer of the poor; wife Ann Eve Richtmyer, of Middleburgh, married in October, 1838; children five—Gitty M., who married David Hayes, of Albany; Elizabeth, wife of Philo D. Sweet, of Jefferson; Harmon B., Albert L., who married Miss Mayo, of Broome county; and Alice I., wife of A. V. Baldwin, of Blenheim.

Wood John, p. o. South Jefferson, farmer, 200 acres, born in Blenheim January 3, 1830, has been assessor; wife Maria Curtis, of Blenheim, married May 9, 1857; children three—Ethel, Nellie, and Bradley C.

CONESVILLE.

Brainard Zachariah, p. o. Manor Kill, farmer and mechanic, 300 acres, born in Durham, Greene county, September 22, 1805, settled in county in 1808, has been highway commissioner; wife Percis Warren, of Greene county, married in 1831; children nine, living six—Jason P., Phoebe, Judson B., Esther F., Jerome C., and Victoria C.

Case John C., p. o. Conesville, farmer and lumberman, born in Conesville August 21, 1837, has been constable; wife Mary E. Van Steenburg, of Ulster county, married November 28, 1860; children four—Lillian M., George F., Willie W., and Xura.

Case Elisha, p. o. Conesville, farmer, 61 acres, born in Broome July 17, 1801, has been school commissioner, assessor, constable, and justice of peace; wife Betsey Fink, of Blenheim, married October 21, 1832; children living two—John C. and Mary L.

Cole Loren P., p. o. Gilboa, farmer, 300 acres, born in Vermont May 27, 1808, settled in county in 1815, has been highway commissioner, inspector of schools, supervisor and town superintendent, was ordained a minister of the old school Baptist church October 13, 1835, and the house in which he preached is still standing in Gilboa; first wife Phoebe M. Pierce, of Greene county, married May 9, 1835; children one—Phoebe A.; second wife Charlotte Wood, of Middlesex Conn., married April 1, 1838; children nine, living six—Albina, Phoma, Juliette, Lantia, Loren P., Jr., and Charlotte.

Couchman Peter, p. o. Conesville, was formerly a farmer, disposed of 200 acres, born in Broome July 28, 1833, has been supervisor and member of assembly; first wife Mary B. Bloodgood, married January 8, 1862; children four—Alma A., Hattie, Ella, and Estella; second wife Mary S. Mayhew, married April 6, 1878.

Dingman Robert, p. o. Manor Kill, miller and lumber manufacturer, 100 acres, born in Conesville January 22, 1811, has been constable, collector and justice of peace; wife Frances, Richmond, of Conesville, married in 1841; children five—Irene, Arthur, Edward, May, and Howard. The grist mill contains two runs of stone, is connected with a cider and saw mill, about half a mile from Manor Kill.

Elliott David S., p. o. Manor Kill, farmer, 165 acres, born in Albany county March 21, 1812, settled in 1813, has been assessor; wife Amanda Fox, of Conesville, married September 11, 1842.

Freese Roswell, p. o. Manor Kill, farmer, 200 acres, born in Broome June 25, 1825, has been commissioner of highways; wife Della Shoemaker, of Conesville, married June 27, 1847; children eight, living four—Rosalia E., wife of William D. Hinman, of Greene county, Charles A., Velma J., and Ella M.

Gaylord O. F., p. o. Manor Kill, farmer, 200 acres, born in Conesville, June 13, 1849; wife Calie M. Case, of Conesville, married September 10, 1872.

Gaylord George E., p. o. Manor Kill, farmer and cattle dealer, 120 acres, born in Conesville June 2, 1856; wife Rose A. Brandon, of Conesville, married October 23, 1874.

Hitchcock Stephen J., p. o. Conesville, farmer, 250 acres, born in Durham, Greene county, May 11, 1814, settled in county in 1822, has been postmaster, justice of peace and supervisor; first wife Hannah J. Stryker, of Gilboa, married July 20, 1831; children five—Cordelia M., Peter V., who married Cornelia E. Richtmyer, Thomas M., living with Cordelia M. in Steele county, Minn., Sarah A., and Stephen S., who lives in Monroe county; second wife Sarah J. Richtmyer, of Conesville, married December 6, 1854; children one—John R., who married Ella M., daughter of N. Sutton.

Kingsley Benoni A., p. o. Conesville, farmer and fire insurance agent, 115 acres, born in Gilboa August 28, 1829, has been constable and collector.

Layman Peter A., p. o. West Conesville, farmer, 134 acres, born in Conesville February 21, 1822, has been assessor; wife Amelia Brand, of Conesville, married October 6, 1861; children four—Edith, Ella, Edward A., and Winnifred. Father, Benjamin, born in Conesville, died in 1818, was son of Jeremiah Layman, an old settler who died in 1809.

McGarry John W., p. o. Conesville, farmer, 205 acres, born in Conesville December 29, 1829, has been town clerk; wife Margaret A. Young, of Ulster county, married June 22, 1858; children three, living two—Alice, born February 18, 1850, and Daniel T., born April 26, 1855.

Morse E. W., p. o. West Conesville, farmer, 210 acres, born in Middletown, Delaware county, April 9, 1852, settled in county March 7, 1867, has been justice of peace; wife Melissa M. Sanford, of Middletown, married January 15, 1878.

Patric A. W., p. o. Conesville, farmer, born in Conesville October 30, 1831, has been assessor and supervisor; wife Celia C. Conine, of Prattsville, married November 23, 1858; children one—Helen M., born October 25, 1859, and married Alonzo P. Crosier, of Conesville.

Phelps Wallace, p. o. Manor Kill, farmer, wagon-maker, and grocer, 150 acres, born in Conesville April 26, 1837, has been collector and postmaster.

Phelps Rolla, p. o. Conesville, farmer, 225 acres, born in Conesville March 29, 1808; wife Catharine Patric, of Conesville, married December 5, 1842; children eleven, living eight—Naomi, Canidia C., Wallace, Harriet, Marcus, Belton, Bryant, and Isabel G.

Richmyer William E., p o Manor Kill, farmer, surveyor and civil engineer, 170 acres, born in Conesville October 31, 1812, has been justice of peace, notary public, and census enumerator; wife Sevinia Becker, of Wright, married April 6, 1812; children eight, living three—Dewitt, Nancy, and Frank.

Seoville Elijah M., p o Manor Kill, farmer, 200 acres, born in Conesville September 12, 1816; first wife Melissa C. Wheeler, of Durham; children three—Celia S., Alice, and Melissa C.; second wife Caroline Halstead, of Albany county, married October 7, 1839, grandfather, Amasa Seoville, settled in county about 1765.

Stevens Levi F., p o Gilboa, farmer, 140 acres, born in Conesville December 23, 1829, has been collector, assessor, and highway commissioner; wife Thirza Sage, of Conesville, born March 20, 1805, married February 22, 1830; children seven, living two—David S., who married Deborah, daughter of Moberly H. Hammond, and Emory, who married Emma, daughter of William Miller; children four—Ward E., Walter A., Linnie D., and Ralph.

Stevens Emory, p o Gilboa.

Sutton A. N., p o Manor Kill, farmer, 35 acres, born in Conesville November 9, 1829; wife Natalie Thorpe, of Conesville, married September 21, 1854; children four, living two—Ella M., wife of John Hitchcock, and Minnie E.

Thompson Abram, p o Manor Kill, farmer 80 acres, born in Conesville September 8, 1832, has been collector; wife Mary E. Mosier, of Albany county, married September 5, 1850; died in 1871; children five, living three—Elenora, wife of John Kane, of Conesville, Mary A., and Luella.

Thorpe Douglas B., p o Manor Kill, farmer, 450 acres, born in Conesville March 9, 1832, has been supervisor; wife Catherine H. Ingraham, of Durham, Greene county, married November 16, 1855; children two—George N., born June 5, 1856, and William E., born November 15, 1859. Mr. Thorpe was the only Republican supervisor elected from Conesville in twenty-five years.

Van Dyke George, p o Manor Kill, farmer and stock dealer, 190 acres, born in Conesville April 5, 1843, has been supervisor; wife Esther Wiltsey, of Broome, married October 10, 1868; children four—Eustand, Franz, Grace, and Blanche.

CARLISLE.

Angle P. A., p o Carlisle.

Allen Harvey, p o Carlisle.

Arnold Joseph H., p o Argusville, proprietor of Arnold House, owns Charles land, born in Newport, Herkimer county September 21, 1821, settled in county September 28, 1848, has been highway commissioner, and school collector; wife Maria D. Grantham; children one; first wife, Sophronia Phillips of Fulton county. Father Richard Arnold, a native of Rhode Island.

Becker P. B., p o Grovenor's Corners.

Becker P. W., p o Carlisle.

Becker C. D., p o Carlisle.

Bellinger Harvey, p o Argusville, merchant, born in Sharon July 18, 1806, settled in village in 1835, wife Annette Kniskern, married in 1833; children two—May and Carlisle. Father William H. Bellinger.

Best George J., p o Sharon Springs, owner and proprietor of Empire House, 5 acres, born in town October 20, 1820, has been town superintendent of schools; wife Isabelle, daughter of Frederick Posson, of town, married in 1856. Father Jacob G. is son of George Best, a native of Columbia county, and one of earliest settlers of the town, owned about fourteen hundred acres of land.

Burhans George B., p o Carlisle Centre.

Bradt Andrew, p o Grovenor's Corners.

Burns Jeremiah, p o Carlisle.

Brown Severinus, p o Cobleskill.

Brown William S., p o Carlisle.

Brown D. S., p o Carlisle.

Brown Harrison, p o Carlisle.

Brown R. W., p o Lawersville.

Coldclough William, p o Carlisle.

Crocker Lewis G., p o Sloansville.

Cass William, p o Carlisle, farmer, 180 acres, born on present farm December 18, 1806, has been assessor; wife Sarah Ann Gordon; second wife Phoebe Gordon; children nine. Father Matthew Cass was first settler on same farm.

Coonrad Adam, p o Argusville, farmer, 218 acres; born in Brunswick, Rensselaer county March 1, 1804, settled in county in 1853; wife Margaret Alpaugh, daughter of John A. paugh, married May 16, 1839; children living nine. Father John Coonrad died aged 84 years.

Clapp John, p o Argusville, blacksmith, owns house and lot, born in Wittenburgh, August 26, 1833, settled in county in 1853; wife Maria Collins, married in 1854, children three—Minerva Neville, Charlie, and Edgar.

Doty William I., p o Sloansville.

Duelli G. B., p o Carlisle.

Estes, G. D., p o Sloansville.

Fero Isaac, p o Carlisle.

Fritcher David, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 180 acres, born in town June 14, 1806, has been commissioner of highways; wife Chloe Parmeley, of Cobleskill, married in 1825; children one—Peter G., who has two sons and three daughters. Father Conrad Fritcher one of early settlers of town.

Gordon John A., p o Argusville.

Grosvenor Niram, p o Grovenor's Corners.

Gardiner Martin L., p o Argusville, farmer, 109 acres, born in Sharon, September 1, 1815; wife Sarah A. Coons, married in 1841; children living one—Jacob E. Father Jacob M. Gardiner.

Hansen N., p o Carlisle.

Hodge Orville, p o Argusville, retired merchant, 138 acres, born in Canajoharie, Montgomery county, July 12, 1822, settled in county in 1845, has been postmaster; wife Marietta, daughter of Aaron Malick, married in January, 1850, children three—Annette Taylor, Lester A., and Leland D. Father Abraham Hodge, a native of Montgomery county.

Hurst William H., p o Sloansville.

Hyney Stephen, p o Argusville.

Karker Simon B., p o Carlisle.

Karker Abram B., p o Carlisle, teacher and farmer, 130 acres, born in town on the Judge Brown homestead, April 15, 1827, has been inspector of election; wife Ruth E. Park, married in 1839; children four—Alice, Charles W., Anna, and Edna. Father Solomon Karker.

Kniskern George, p o Carlisle, farmer, 106 acres, born in town April 26, 1818, settled on present farm in 1850, has been assessor and collector; first wife Sarah Becker; second, Edna Brown; children one, Laura, Tillapough. Parents Peter and Mary Kniskern.

Kilts Jacob L., p o Sharon.

Lawyer Adam H., p o Carlisle, farmer, 92 acres, born on present farm June 1, 1820, has been assessor, collector, and inspector of election; wife Julia Dingman, married in 1841, children living six. Father Adam, son of Johannes Lawyer, one of the first settlers of Schoharie.

McCann M., p o Argusville.

Neville Theodore J., p o Argusville, teacher, 10 acres, born in Sharon June 18, 1833, settled in village in 1855, has been justice of peace; wife Minerva Copp, married in 1851; children one—Earl J. Parents John and Julia Neville.

Osterhout Stanton, p o Lawersville, farmer, 84 acres, born in town May 20, 1823, has been commissioner of highways; wife Josephine Hisinger, married in 1840, children three—Orson, Elvie, and an infant. Father A. Osterhout.

Osterhout Irving, p o Lawersville.

Ottman George, p o Carlisle Centre.

Osterhout Jacob A., p o Cobleskill, farmer, 391 acres, born on present farm June 11, 1825; wife Betsey Kniskern, married in 1846, children living six. Father Abram Osterhout was first settler on farm.

Osterhout George J., p o Cobleskill, farmer, 29 acres, born in Seward, July 31, 1841, settled on farm in 1861, has been collector; wife Sarah M. Myers, of Schoharie, married in 1863; children two—Abbie, and Ruth. Parents Abraham and Sarah Osterhout.

Ottman Henry L., p o Carlisle, farmer, 185 acres, born on present farm April 29, 1829; wife Nellie Brown, grand daughter of Judge Brown, married in 1842; children eleven. Father George, son of Christian Ottman, one of the early settlers of county.

Prosser Charles J., p o Carlisle.

Roscoe R. J., p o Carlisle.

Roscoe John M., p o Carlisle.

Roberts Charles D., p o Lawersville.

Scott Isaac F., p o Grovenor's Corners.

Schuyler J. S., p o Grovenor's Corners.

Shafer Sylvester, p o Argusville, farmer, born in Cobleskill, December 31, 1826; settled in town in 1856; wife Mary A. Plimsey, married December 13, 1849; children eight. Parents David and Maria Shafer.

- Smith Asa**, p o Carlisle, farmer, 196 acres, born in Herkimer county, December 7, 1807, settled in county in 1865; wife Margaret, daughter of Cornelius Brower, married in 1840; children four—Carrie, Ellen, Willie, and Malvin. Parents William and Catharine Smith.
- Snyder George B.**, p o Carlisle, farmer, 186 acres, born in town October 12, 1830, settled on farm in 1858, has been excise commissioner and collector; wife Elizabeth, daughter of Mathias Kniskern, married in 1853; children three—Oscar, Charles, and William. Parents David L. and Margaret (Robinson) Snyder.
- Skinner F. D.**, p o Carlisle.
- Spore James H.**, p o Sharon, shoemaker and farmer, 16 acres, born in Montgomery county July 18, 1825; settled in county in 1846, has been overseer of the poor; wife Margaret, daughter of Calvin Morris, married in 1847; children one—Lyman J.
- Staley H. J.**, p o Carlisle.
- Tillapaugh George**, p o Carlisle.
- Vanalstine John L.**, p o Argusville, farmer, 115 acres, born in Sharon, January 22, 1812, settled on farm in 1836; wife Katie, daughter of John Collins, married November 27, 1831; children living five—Lyman L., Ephraim, Helena, Maria, and Esther Ann.
- Wakeman Horace**, p o Lawersville.
- Young M.**, p o Carlisle.
- Young George**, p o Carlisle.

COBLESKILL.

- Bellinger George W.**, p o Cobleskill.
- Becker James**, p o Cobleskill, dairy farmer, and operator of saw mill, 150 acres, born in county in 1810; wife Sally A. Overbaugh, of county, married in 1845; children five.
- Blodget James F.**, p o Cobleskill, retired builder and farmer, born in Esperance, in 1810; wife Clarissa Redington, of county, married in 1837, died in 1861; children two; second wife Mrs. Maria Borst Shaw, of Cobleskill, married in 1863. Father, Rufus Blodget, came from Connecticut before 1800.
- Borst A. B.**, general furniture dealer, born in county in 1811, commenced business in 1871, giving employment to four persons.
- Brown William**, p o Cobleskill, farmer, born in county in 1830; wife Irene Moore, of county, born in 1839, married in 1853; children six.
- Bouck Tobias**, p o Cobleskill, farmer and retired hotel proprietor, 150 acres, born in county in 1806, has been sheriff and member of assembly; wife Eliza Worth, of county, born in 1810, married in 1830; children five, living four—James A., John M., Catharine B., and S. Hagar.
- Brown W. Jersey**, p o Cobleskill.
- Burnett Oswell**, p o Cobleskill, photographer and copyist, born in county in 1846, enlisted in August, 1862, in 134th Infantry for one year, was discharged, enlisted again in September, 1863, and remained through war; wife Louisa Dibble, of county, married in 1868; children four. Firm in photography is Burnett & Pangburn. John H. Pangburn, of county born in 1852; wife Lois Loucks, of county, married in 1877; children one.
- Casper John**, p o East Cobleskill, farmer and stock raiser, born in county in 1833, has been collector and commissioner; wife Caroline Brower, of county, married December 5, 1857; children one—Charles D. Peter Casper born in county in 1891, died in 1898; wife Margaret Herar, of county, born in 1891, married in 1921; children six—Maria, George, Christina, John, Nancy, and Peter H. Great-grandfather born in Germany in 1762, settled in county about 1775.
- Casper F. L.**, p o Howe's Cave, furniture manufacturer, born in Cobleskill in 1857; wife Bella Becker, of county, married in 1879. Father, George Casper, of Schoharie, born in 1821; wife Emeline Berner, of Otsego county, born in 1825, married in 1848; children four.
- Coffin Eugene**, p o Cobleskill.
- Chambers D.**, p o Carlisle Centre, farmer, born in Carlisle in 1837; wife Catharine M., daughter of C. C. Richtmyer, born in 1825, married in 1860; children one—Florence.
- Cohn M.**, p o Cobleskill, merchant and general dealer in ready-made clothing, boots and shoes, etc.
- Coburn Sarah J.**, p o Cobleskill, farmer, 120 acres. Peter Coburn, born in Scotland in 1817, settled in county in 1858, died in 1890; wife Sarah J. Whitbeck, born in Albany county in 1828, married in 1848; children three.
- Cross James, Jr.**, p o Barnerville, farmer, 275 acres, born in county in 1817; wife Eliza Beaver, of county, born in 1823, married in 1843; children five. Father, James Cross, born in Dutchess county in 1783, came to county in 1805, died in 1850; wife Sally Abbott, born in Massachusetts in July, 1777, married April 19, 1810, died in 1841; children three.
- Counter Helen Mrs.**, p o Cobleskill.
- Dana Gilbert W.**, p o Lawersville, farmer, 100 acres, born in 1825, has been assessor; wife Clara H. Nichols, of Schoharie, married in December, 1846; children five.
- Dibble David A.**, p o Cobleskill, farmer, 55 acres, born in county in 1855; wife Elizabeth Dibble, of county, married in 1877. Father, Archibald Dibble, born in 1812; wife Ruth Cook, of county, born in 1817, married in 1841; children four.
- Diefendorf Peter**, p o Lawersville, farmer, 80 acres, born in Schoharie in 1820; wife Eliza M. Shuts, of Schoharie, died in August, 1865; children three; second wife Dorcas Garlock, married in 1866, died in 1868; third wife Kate Van Praeger, of Columbia county, married in 1870. Father, George Diefendorf, of county, born in 1800; wife Elizabeth Ottman, of county, born in 1800, died in July, 1880; children fourteen, living twelve.
- Dow Dewitt C.**, p o Cobleskill.
- Ferguson Alonzo**, p o Cobleskill, dealer in general hardware, stoves, tin and farming implements.
- Fox Luther T.**, p o Cobleskill, dental surgeon.
- Foote C. E.**, p o Cobleskill.
- Foland George**, p o Warrerville, farmer and assessor, born in county in 1836, has been assessor seven years; wife Christina Mann, of county, born in 1839, married in 1860, died in 1863; children one; second wife Susan Dutcher, of county, born in 1840, married in 1868. Father, Henry Foland, of Columbia county, born in 1795, came to county about 1800, died in 1881; wife Margaret Springer, of county, born in 1803, died in 1866.
- Fuller John K.**, p o Cobleskill, proprietor of livery and sale stable, born in county in 1836; wife Anna Guleck, of Schuyler county, married in 1859; children one—William—William Schuyler, born in Montgomery county, came to county in 1878.
- Frazier C. K.**, p o Cobleskill.
- Gale James**, p o Barnerville, chair and rake manufacturer, and general worker in wood and machine shop, owns mill and homestead, born in Schenectady county in 1818, settled in county in 1836; wife Hannah Riley, of Schoharie, born in 1818, married in January, 1840; children two—Isaac Riley, born in 1840, and James G., born in 1843. Father, Isaac Riley, born in Connecticut in 1781, came to county about 1800, died in 1823; wife Lorraine Bradley, of Otsego county, died in 1830; children six.
- Guernsey George W.**, p o East Cobleskill, farmer and school teacher, 125 acres, born in county in 1829; wife Samantha Cole, of county, born in 1845, married in 1868; children four—Loren C., born in 1869, Roscoe, in 1871, Emma, in 1874, and Valetta, in 1877. Father, John Guernsey, of Middleburgh.
- Guernsey Chester**, p o East Cobleskill, farmer, 114 acres, born in Middleburgh in 1842; wife Planchera Sherwood, of Broome county, married in 1861, died in 1869; children one—Wilson; second wife Margaret Sutphen, of Albany county, married in 1871, children five—Mathias, Myrtie, Emery and Emma (twins) and Charles. Father, William, son of James Guernsey, an old settler in county.
- Graham M. G.**, p o Cobleskill.
- Hager George H.**, p o Cobleskill, farmer, 95 acres, born in county in 1841; wife Priscilla Face, married in 1869.
- Harder Minard**, p o Cobleskill, manufacturer of horse power threshing and sawing machines.
- Head John**, p o Cobleskill Centre, general blacksmith and repairer, born in Carlisle in 1831, 195 acres; wife Luna Smith, of county, married in 1853, died in 1890; children three—Montraville, born in 1856, George, in 1858, and Albert, in 1860; second wife Margaret Smith, of county, married in 1891; children one—Luna Smith, born in 1863.
- Hess Louis**, p o Cobleskill, photographer.
- Holmes Judge Charles**, p o Cobleskill, lawyer and counselor, born in county March 26, 1820, has been judge of county.
- Hogan & Borst**, general druggists, and dealers in paints, oils, glass, and fancy goods, commenced business as a firm in 1879; Reed Hogan born in county in 1834; Charles C. Borst born in county in 1851.

- Hoose John**, p o Barnerville, blacksmith and farmer, 27 acres, born in Albany county in 1795, settled in county in 1812; wife Sally Wilsey, born in county, in 1798, married in 1816, died in 1877; children seven—Anna, born in 1822, John F., in 1824, David, in 1826, Jane, in 1829, Peter, in 1832, Rosanna, in 1834, and Catharine, in 1838. William Conolly born in Cobleskill in 1823; wife Jane Hoose, married in 1867. Father, Jacob Hoose, born in Columbia county about 1740, came to county in 1819, died in 1822, was private in the Revolution.
- Hutton J. H.**, p o Cobleskill, farmer, 108 acres, born in county in 1810; wife Nancy Safford, of county, married in 1801; children one.
- Lawyer Schuyler**, p o Cobleskill, shoemaker.
- Lawyer Tiffany**, p o Cobleskill.
- Lawyer Peter**, farmer, 180 acres, born in county September 29, 1832, died in 1878, has held several town offices; wife Sarah A. Borst, married in 1865; children six.
- Lawyer Dr. Augustus F.**, physician in the naval service, born in county in 1807. Thomas Lawyer lived at Lawersville, and was a lawyer.
- Lawyer David**, p o Cobleskill, farmer, born in county in 1814; wife Elizabeth M. Van Valkenburg, married in 1840; children one—Elmer H. Father, Augustus Lawyer, William Van Valkenburg, father of Elizabeth, born in Massachusetts, came to county, died in 1852, aged 85 years; wife Rebecca Youngs, of Schoharie; children five.
- Loucks Peter**, p o Cobleskill, retired farmer, born in Sharon in 1802, has been assessor and overseer of poor; wife Catharine Snyder, of county, born in 1805, married January 4, 1825; children two—Lavina, and Christina. Father, John G. Loucks, born in Ulster county in 1772, came to county in 1806, died in 1826.
- McIntosh W. H.**, p o Cobleskill, dealer in gents' furnishing goods and merchant tailor, born in New York, settled in county in 1867; wife Catharine A. Putnam, of Montgomery county, married in 1844; children two.
- Moeller Henry Austin**, p o Cobleskill, dealer in general groceries, born in county in 1814; wife A. E. Thatcher, of Connecticut, married in January, 1860; children two.
- Ottman Barney**, p o Lawersville, farmer and miller, 95 acres, born in county in 1820; wife Almira Riley, of county, born in 1820, married in 1842; children three. Jacob Ottman was born in county.
- Overpauigh John H.**, proprietor of sash and blind factory and general lumber yard, owns four residences, homestead and 14 acres land, born in county in 1818; wife Mary C. Snyder, of Rensselaer county, married in 1848; children five, living three.
- Pindar J. S.** p o Cobleskill.
- Quackenbush Frederick**, p o Cobleskill, retired miller and farmer, 50 acres, born in Albany county in 1817, settled in county in 1860; wife Sarah Kilts, of county, born in 1821, married in 1857.
- Ramsey Charles H.**, p o Howe's Cave.
- Richmyer Robert**, p o Cobleskill, farmer, 95 acres, born in Schoharie September 16, 1845, has been overseer of poor and inspector of elections; wife Nancy Burhans, of county, married in 1860, died October 23, 1864; children one; second wife Nancy A. Karker, of county, married in 1871. Father, Christian W. Richmyer, of county, born in 1802, died December 22, 1880; wife Catharine Moore, of Columbia county, born in 1804, died in 1870; children two—William M. and Robert.
- Richmyer Christian C.**, p o Carlisle Centre, farmer, 110 acres, born in Cobleskill in 1803; wife Cornelia Slingerland, of Albany county, born in 1800, married in 1820, children two—Catharine, born in 1839, died in 1854. Father, Conrad Richmyer, born in county in 1776, died in 1862; wife Margaret Salsburgh, born in Albany county in 1778, died in 1868; children ten, living two. Grandfather was born in Albany county and engaged in the Revolution.
- Richmyer Jacob**, p o Cobleskill, farmer, 115 acres, born in county in 1829; wife Henrietta Shaffer, born in county in 1835, married in 1860; children one—Mary E., born in 1865. Father, William C. Richmyer, born in county in 1798; wife Catharine Wetsell, of county, born in 1800, married in 1821; children four—Jacob, Margaret, Amendo, and Mary C. Christopher Wetsell, father of Catharine, born in Rensselaer county, settled at Howe's Cave about 1790.
- Rockefeller M. L.**, p o Cobleskill, farmer, 135 acres, born in Columbia county in 1824, settled in county in 1830; wife Henrietta Roberts, of county, married in 1851; children two.
- Rose Anson**, farmer, 108 acres, born in Rensselaer county in 1831, settled in county in 1854; wife Catharine Shank, born January 11, 1825, married in 1855; children three—Franklin, Ella, and Charles. Sebastian Shank, born in Albany county in 1790, died in 1876; wife Mary Shaver, of county, born in 1796, married in 1814; children six, living four—Gilbert, born July 11, 1816, Frances, April 25, 1818, Catharine, January 11, 1825, and Margaret, January 7, 1827. Mrs. Shank has eleven great-grandchildren.
- Ryder & Lefevre**, p o Cobleskill, dealers in domestic and imported goods, ready-made clothing, boots, shoes, hats, caps, and a full assortment of Yankee notions.
- Schermerhorn R. T.**, p o Cobleskill, dealer in general groceries, born in county in 1811; wife Margaret Mickle, of county, married in 1865; children two. J. S. Schermerhorn, born in county in 1815, died in 1877.
- Shafer Daniel G.**, p o Cobleskill, farmer, 100 acres, born in county in 1812; wife Mary J. Van Valkenburg, of county, married in 1838; children two. Daniel Shafer, born in county in 1816, died in 1846; wife Maria Barner, born in county in 1815, married in 1834, died in 1880; children two—Daniel G. and Nancy.
- Shutts A.**, p o Lawersville, farmer, 110 acres, born in county in 1830; wife Emeline R. Walker, of county, married in 1846, died in 1858; children three; second wife Cornelia Redington, of county, married in 1860; children three.
- Smith Thomas S.**, p o Cobleskill, dealer in monuments and building stone, born in county in 1852, commenced business in September, 1880, previously engaged in same business in Fulton county.
- Van Dresser J. W. & H.**, p o Cobleskill, farmers and proprietors of cheese factory, 155 acres. J. W. born in 1845; wife Helen Roberts, of county, married in 1860; children two. Henry Van Dresser born in 1829; wife Emma Becker, of county, married in 1872. Father, John I. Van Dresser, born in county in 1803, died in 1880.
- Van Schaick John**, p o Cobleskill.
- Van Wageningen Jared**, p o Lawersville, farmer and sheep raiser, 300 acres, born in Schoharie in 1835; wife Loraine McNeill, of county, born in 1839, married in 1857; children two. Father, Rynear Van Wageningen.
- Waldron Edwin**, p o Cobleskill, proprietor of foundry and machine shop, where general custom and order work is executed promptly.
- Wakeman Horace**, p o Lawersville, farmer, 122 acres, born in county in 1807; wife Jeannette F. Becker, of Schenectady county, born in 1808, married in 1831; children two.
- Wakeman A.**, p o Lawersville, farmer, 230 acres, born in county in 1810; wife Mary Odell, of Fairfield county, Conn., born in 1815, married in 1837; children four. Horatio Wakeman, born in county in 1813. Father, Seth B. Wakeman, of Fairfield county, Conn.
- Walker J. Jackson**, p o Cobleskill, farmer, 80 acres, born in county in 1831; wife Catharine Van Dresser, of county, born in 1831, married in 1854; children two. Father, William Walker, of Greene county, born in 1793, died in 1867; wife Harriet Ruton, of Westchester county, born in 1801, married in 1820, died in 1879.
- Welch Dr. Clark D.**, p o Cobleskill, physician and surgeon, born in Albany county, settled in county in 1877, was graduated from the New York Homeopathic Medical College.
- Wieting John C.**, p o Cobleskill, farmer, 150 acres, born in Seward in 1830; wife Mary A. Sexton, of Seward, born in 1831, married in 1857; children two. Father, Philip P. Wieting, born in county in 1800, came to county in 1829, died in 1879; wife Catharine Boshart, of Lewis county, married in 1825, died in 1876; children three.

ESPERANCE.

Anderson J. K., p o Esperance.

Baumes George, farmer, 130 acres, born in Albany county, settled in county in 1820, died March 15, 1880, has been assessor and justice of peace; wife Rachel Stoneman of Albany county, married in 1816; children seven, living six.

- Blenis Lewis P.**, p. o Sloansville, farmer, and retired notion dealer, 72 acres, born in Greene county in 1831, settled in county in 1833; wife Eunice Kimble, of county, married in 1837; children four—George K., William C., Charles R., and Frederick F.
- Bowles Joseph L.**, farmer, born in Rhode Island in 1812, settled in county in 1835, died March 31, 1876; wife Mary Phelps, of county, born in 1832, married in 1850; children one—Nannie Phelps. Gains Phelps, father of Mary, born in Connecticut in 1785, settled in county in 1801, died in 1860; wife Susan B. Phelps, born in Rhode Island in 1792, married in 1819, died in 1846.
- Brazee Avery**, born in county in 1813; wife Amanda Winney of Albany county, married in 1836, died in 1851; children two—second wife Emma Burnett, of Montgomery county, married in 1852. Father Frederick Brazee a M. E. clergyman, died in 1852.
- Briggs George B.**, p. o Esperance, general druggist and prescriptionist, born in Schenectady county in 1812, settled in county in 1846; wife Rachel Conover, married in 1861.
- Brumley Albert**, p. o Esperance, dealer in feed and seeds, born in Montgomery county in 1837, settled in county in 1861, has been assessor and justice of the peace; wife Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Wells of Montgomery county, married in 1859. Father T. R. Brumley, of Montgomery county.
- Clark William S.**, p. o Sloansville, attorney and counselor, born in county in 1826, has been member of legislature. Father William Clark, of Albany county, born January 19, 1781, settled in county in 1813, died June 18, 1849.
- Conover William H.**, p. o Esperance, farmer, 150 acres, born in county in December, 1818; wife Victoria Foote of Schenectady, born in 1831, married in 1851, children four—Sherman, Maud, Frank, and Floyd C. Father William Conover born in Montgomery county in 1817, came to county in 1837, died in 1896; wife Pamela Wells born in Montgomery county in 1818, married in 1837, children seven.
- Crandall Edward**, p. o Sloansville, farmer, born in county in 1830; wife Eunice Kimble of Montgomery county, married in 1853, children three—Sarah E., Anna K., and Eliza.
- Denison Edwin**, p. o Esperance, farmer, 80 acres, born in Albany county, settled in county in 1855; wife Sarah Gleason, of Saratoga county, married in 1853.
- Dewey Jerome**, p. o Sloansville, farmer, born in county in 1818; wife Eliza Hoag born in Dutchess county in 1822, married in 1845. Father Ira Dewey born in Enfield, Connecticut, in 1787, came to county in 1808, died in 1859, wagon and carriage manufacturer.
- Dewey Franklin**, p. o Central Bridge, farmer, 75 acres, born in county in 1822, has held several town offices; wife Catharine Young, of Schoharie county, married in 1850, died in 1867; children two—Mary A. and Sarah L.; second wife Emily Young married in 1868; children one.
- Dopp Charles**, p. o Sloansville.
- Dorn John**, p. o Esperance, farmer, 40 acres, born in Montgomery county, in 1816, settled in county in 1836; wife Abigail Dean, born in county in 1821, married in 1829, died January 14, 1841, children two—William E., and Robert; second wife Jane Dean, of county, married in March, 1845.
- Dorn William E.**, p. o Esperance, farmer, 175 acres, born in county in 1810, has been town clerk and overseer of poor; wife Elizabeth Devoe, of county, born in 1836, married in 1859; children eleven—Lillie A., Jacob, John, Grant, Minnie D., William E. Jr., Mead, Mary J., Ralph, Roscoe C., and Charles R.
- Dwelly Jerome**, p. o Sloansville, farmer and stock dealer, 100 acres, born in county in 1818; wife Augusta Quick, married November 2, 1880.
- Dwelly John H.**, p. o Sloansville, carriage and sleigh manufacturer and blacksmith, born in county in 1822, has been assessor; wife Adaline Crocker, born in county in 1822, married in 1846; children five—Oscar, Edwin, Alida, Emma, and Helen.
- Enders David**, p. o Central Bridge, farmer, 200 acres, born in county in 1819; wife Mary Gallup, of county, married in 1873; children one—Peter I. Father Peter I. Enders, of county, born in 1798; wife Catharine Putnam, of Montgomery county; children six.
- Enders Jacob P.**, farmer, born in county in 1792, died in 1866; wife Eve, daughter of Jacob Kniskern, of county, born in 1798, married in 1818; children nine. Father Peter Enders.
- Enders Peter**, p. o Sloansville, farmer, 236 acres, born in county in 1828; wife Cornelia Van Vechten, of county, born in 1828, married in 1849; children four, Page, John, Eva, and Maggie.
- Enders David**, p. o Sloansville, retired farmer, born in county in 1823, has been railroad commissioner; wife Emma W., daughter of O. H. Williams, married in 1850; children one—Nancy. Father Jacob P. Enders.
- Fethers D. L.**, p. o Esperance.
- Fisher Jacob**, p. o Central Bridge, farmer, 368 acres, born in Albany county in 1811, settled in county in 1830, has been justice of peace; wife Sophia Shell, of county, born in 1801, married in 1825, children five.
- Fuller Thomas E.**, p. o Sloansville, retired farmer and carpenter, 151 acres, born in Schoharie in 1812; wife Elizabeth Davis born in county in 1815, married in 1822; children one—Mary E., born in 1849. Father Samuel D. Fuller of Hartford Co., Connecticut, born in 1778, came to county in 1805, died in 1812.
- Gallup D. R.**, p. o Sloansville, dealer in general merchandise, dry-goods, crockery, groceries, clothing, farming implements and seed; is postmaster at Sloansville.
- Hogan Isaac**, p. o Central Bridge, retired merchant, carpenter and builder, owns homestead, born in Albany county in 1810, settled in county in 1841; wife Mary A. Finch, of Greene county, born in 1811, married in 1831; children twelve, and grand-children forty-one.
- Houck Jacob H.**, p. o Central Bridge, farmer 126 acres, born in county April 20, 1827; wife Diana Kelm, of county, married in 1856; children three—Minnie K., Maggie E., and Mary.
- Hunter Adam**, p. o Esperance, general marble and granite dealer, firm of Hunter & Swan, born in Scotland, in 1811, settled in county in 1832; wife Kate Maxwell, of Schenectady county, married in 1839; children three. Robert Swan born in England, settled in county in 1856.
- Jones James**, p. o Sloansville, farmer, rented farm of 130 acres, born in Ireland, in 1821, settled in county in 1866; wife Nancy M. Swart, born in county in 1829, married in 1847; children seven.
- Kimball George K.**, p. o Sloansville, farmer, born in county in 1829, has held several town offices; wife Emma Montague of county, born in 1815, married in 1851. Father Elijah Kimble was born in Montgomery county in 1802, settled in county in 1818, died in 1876, wagon manufacturer and farmer.
- Larkin Philip G.**, farmer, 250 acres, born in county in 1804, died in 1890; wife Eliza F. daughter of Peter Mann of county, born in 1824, married in 1851; children five. Father John Larkin.
- Larkin Solomon**, p. o Lowersville, farmer and broom manufacturer, born in county in 1811, has been assessor; wife Emma Wakeman, married in 1833; children one—Charles W.
- Larkin Jehiel**, p. o Sloansville, retired merchant, born in county in 1806, has been supervisor; wife Julia Boyd of county, born in 1811; married in 1836. Father John Larkin.
- Liddle John**, p. o Esperance, retired farmer, born in County in 1802, settled in county in 1829; wife Margaret McIntosh, of Schenectady county, born in 1810, married in May, 1828.
- Mason A. J.**, p. o Sloansville.
- Messenger Storrs**, p. o Esperance, general jeweler and silversmith, born in Connecticut, October 13, 1799, settled in county in 1817, has been supervisor and postmaster; wife Fannie D. LeVergne of county, married in 1823; children three—Sarah, George, and Frances. Father Joel Messenger born in Massachusetts in 1760, settled in county in 1817, died in 1850.
- Moore G. W.**, p. o Sloansville, farmer, 60 acres, born in county in 1836, has been overseer of poor; wife Lucy Payne, of Otsego county, born in 1829, married in 1857; children four.
- McDuffie William J.**, p. o Esperance, merchant, born in Esperance, in 1813, has been justice of peace; wife Alice D. Currie, of county, married in 1853. Father Duncan McDuffie. Grandfather Adam McDuffie, an early settler from Scotland.
- McMaster William**, p. o Sloansville, farmer, 106 acres, born in county in 1826; wife Amanda Bromley, of Montgomery county, married in 1833; children three—Mary, Frances, and Carrie. Father Robert McMaster born in Montgomery county, in 1789, came to county in 1805, died November, 1876.
- Montaney John T.**, p. o Esperance, farmer, 80 acres, born in county in 1836, was soldier during the last war, enlisted in Company L, 142d N. Y. Vols, last call and remained in service until end of the war, was wounded and draws a pension; wife Alvira Jones, born in Schenectady county in 1835, married in 1858; children one—Charles.

Montaney William C. p o Esperance, farmer, 66 acres, born in county in 1831; wife Rachel Rockwell, of Montgomery county, born in 1812, married in 1830; children five—Cinderella, Sarah, B. James, John T., and Hiram. Father James Montaney born in New Jersey, settled in county in 1830.

Rockwell Charles F., p o Esperance, farmer, 110 acres, born in county in 1836; wife Carrie Bragg, of Montgomery county, born in 1840, married in 1859. Father Rufus Rockwell born in 1815; wife Hannah McDuffie, born in 1817, married in 1835; children six.

Severson George H., p o Sloansville, farmer, and boot and shoe manufacturer, 63 acres, born in county in 1818; was elected assessor; wife Elizabeth McMaster, of county, born January 31, 1821, married October 17, 1841; children one—Lucy A. born in 1852. Father John Severson born August 26, 1788, is a retired farmer living near Central Bridge.

Severson John, p o Central Bridge, retired farmer, born in Albany county, August 26, 1788; wife Margaret VanWormer, of Albany county, born in 1788, married in 1812, died in 1852; children nine, living six.

Severson Peter, p o Central Bridge, farmer, and boot and shoe manufacturer, 20 acres, born in county April 5, 1825; wife Elizabeth Enders, of county, born in 1826, married in 1861, and died; children one—Edgar; second wife Mary Wilsey, of county, married March, 1880. Parents John and Margaret Severson.

Sherburn Henry, p o Esperance, magnetic and electric physician, born in Schenectady, in 1817, settled in county in 1841; wife A. L. Wood, of Schenectady county, born in 1816, married in 1838; children one, Rosanna, and one adopted child—Sarah McCollum. Dr. John Wood, father of A. L. Wood, was born in Rhode Island, settled in Schenectady county about 1800, and died in 1855, was a prominent physician for many years in Schenectady and Schoharie counties.

Silvernail Miss Ann Maria, p o Esperance, born in county in 1825, sister Miss Jane E. Silvernail, of county, born in 1832, and they together own 50 acres land. Father Conrad Silvernail was born in Columbia county in 1804, came to county in 1827, died in 1856; wife Caroline Link born in Columbia county in 1809, married in 1823, died in 1841; children six, living four.

Sholt William F., p o Central Bridge, farmer, born in county in 1818, has been assessor; wife Christina M. Houck, married in 1847.

Slingerland Aaron, p o Sloansville, farmer, 231 acres, born in Cobleskill in 1823; wife Sarah Safford, of county, married in 1833; children two—Nora, and Charles G. Father Isaac A. Slingerland, grandfather Aaron W. Slingerland.

Stevens Mark W., p o Sloansville, born in Columbia county March 11, 1821, settled in county in 1833, has been justice, supervisor, and assessor; wife Mary A. Eero, of Albany; children two—Lucy K., and Phelps, who died June 8, 1869.

Storrs Messenger, p o Esperance.

Tubbs Jesse A., p o Esperance, farmer, 79 acres, born in Charleston, Montgomery county, in 1810, settled in county in 1828, has been assessor, supervisor, justice, and overseer of the poor; wife Mrs. Mary McDuffie Cole, of county, married in 1831; children two—Joseph N., and George L.

Vannatta William L., p o Esperance, farmer, 80 acres, born in Charleston, Montgomery county in 1818, settled in county in 1836; wife Caroline Brand, born in Montgomery county, in 1824, married in 1842. Father Henry Vannatta.

VanDerveer Fitch C. p o Sloansville, farmer, 197 acres, born in Montgomery county in 1822, settled in county in 1851; wife Ann Crocker, born in county in 1828; married in 1847; children three—Norman S., Harlow B., and Aden W.

VanVedte James, p o Esperance, farmer, 270 acres, born in Rensselaer county in 1831, settled in county in 1842, has been justice, R. R. commissioner, and supervisor; wife Sophia Dietz, of county, born in 1821, married in 1859; children three—John P., Isaac C., and Lizzie May.

VanZandt Peter M., p o Grover's Corners, farmer, 98 acres, born in county in 1817, has been excise commissioner; wife Catharine Baumes, of county, born in 1819, married in 1851; children one—George A.

Vank Samuel, p o Sloansville, carpenter and builder, owns homestead, born in Montgomery county in 1823, settled in county in 1856; wife Miranda Montana, of county, born in 1817, married in 1860, died in 1878.

Vines J. E., p o Esperance.

Vink Daniel, p o Sloansville.

FULTON.

Akeley Edgar, p o West Fulton, mason, born in Greene county in 1810, settled in county in 1847, has been justice of peace and postmaster; wife Mary L. Kelley, born in Otsego county in 1810, married in 1865; children three. Parents, James and Sally J. (Shutt) Akeley, of Greene county.

Akeley Frank, p o West Fulton, general merchant, born in Schoharie county in 1819, has been deputy postmaster; wife Elmira Zeh, married in 1851. Frank is the son of James and Sally (Shutt) Akeley, and commenced business in 1857.

Akeley John S., p o West Fulton, physician, born in Greene county in 1815, settled in county in 1849, was graduated from Philadelphia Medical College and commenced practice in 1833; wife Algenora, daughter of Franklin and Delia A. Phaneuff, married in 1869; children one—Maud.

Arnlin Daniel, p o Breakabeen.

Becker William G., p o Fultonham, farmer, born in Schoharie county in 1821, has been town clerk; wife Sophia Zeh, born in 1823, married in 1843; children three—Delia N., born in 1841, George H., in 1847, and Mary L., in 1860. Father, Garret, was son of William H. Becker. Grandfather, Henry Becker, was a Revolutionary soldier, and his father came from Germany.

Bergh Washington, p o Breakabeen, retired merchant and farmer, born in county in 1817, has held various town offices, among them that of supervisor; wife Sophia Weidman, born in Albany county in 1818; one child—Catharine. Parents, Philip and Catharine E. Bergh, the former a son of Abraham Bergh, whose father came from Germany and settled in county previous to the Revolution.

Bergh Benjamin, p o Breakabeen, farmer, 100 acres, born in county in 1843; wife Matilda Reckard, married in 1859; children six—Abraham J., John R., Katy, Luveria, Julia, Maggie.

Bergh David, p o Breakabeen, born in county in 1821, died in 1865; wife Sophia Mann, born in county in 1821, married in 1845; children three—Oscar D., Sidney, Harriet. Parents, Philip and Catharine Bergh.

Bice Minard R., p o West Fulton, farmer and hop grower, born in county in 1816; wife Delia Pitcher, daughter of Joseph L. and Maria Pitcher, born in 1800, married in 1867; children two—Grant L. and Edie M. Parents, David and Susan Bice.

Best William G., p o Fultonham, farmer, born in county in 1811, has been town collector; wife Frances E. Baker, born in county in 1816, married in 1836; children two—Orvil, and Anna Augusta. Parents, Charles and Eliza Best.

Best Charles, p o Fultonham, farmer and retired merchant, born in county in 1831; wife Charity, daughter of Peter and Catharine Zeh Mattice, married July 2, 1850; children four—Scott, born in 1871, Howard, in 1874, Lotta May, in 1875, and Charles, in 1878.

Borst Peter H., p o Middleburgh, retired farmer, born in county in 1813; wife Nancy Efner, died and left six children; second wife Ann E. Vroman, born in 1809, married in 1856. Parents, Henry H. and Margaret Cole, first.

Bouck George P., p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in county in 1836. Father, Bartholomew Bouck, born in 1779, died in 1855. Mother, Elizabeth Mattice, born in 1799, died in 1854; children seven.

Bouck Charles, p o Fultonham, retired farmer, 700 acres, born in county in 1829, has been member of assembly and supervisor; wife Juliet Best, born in county in 1831, married in 1859; children four. Parents, ex-Governor and Catharine (Lawyer) Bouck; children eleven, seven now living.

Bunn Edwin H., p o West Fulton, farmer, 110 acres, born in county in 1828; wife Cynthia Mead, died in 1865; second wife Emma Van Natter, of county, married in 1867; children two—Ettie M., Mary M. Father, William Bunn, of Montgomery county.

Chase Charles H., p o Mineral Springs, farmer and hop grower, 80 acres, born in county in 1823; wife Mary J. Teller, born in 1829, married in 1849; children two—John and Emma. Parents, John M. and Catharine Chase, of county. Commodus Teller, Father of Mary J., born in county in 1805; wife Lavina Vroman, born in county in 1806, married in 1825; children eleven, seven now living.

Cook Charles, p o West Fulton, farmer, born in county in 1831; wife Maria O. Bailey, born in county in 1837, married in 1857; children ten, four living—Olive M., Clyde C., Louise Adelle, Flora M. Parents, Joseph and Polly Cook, who settled in county from Connecticut in 1792.

- Finegan Michael**, p o West Fulton, general blacksmith, born in Ireland in 1824, settled in county August 28, 1849; wife Ann West, born in county in 1831, married in 1855; children six. Parents, Patrick and Catharine (Taff) Finegan, of Ireland.
- Foland Martin L.**, p o Breakabeen, farmer and hop grower, born in county in 1836; wife Jane Whitbeck, born in county in 1836, married in 1858; children eight. Parents, Henry and Maria Foland, the former a son of Martin Foland, who was born in Dutchess county and settled in Schoharie county before 1800.
- Freemyer William H.**, p o Breakabeen, farmer, 350 acres, born in county in 1821, has been supervisor and assessor; wife Emma, daughter of John D. and Gertrude Wilsey, of county, born in 1840, married in 1872; children two—Frank and John. Parents, John and Catharine (Bartholomew) Freemyer, the former born in 1785, died in 1876, and the latter born in 1792, married in 1809; children ten, five now living. Grandfather, Johannes Freemyer, whose father was one of early German settlers of county, was born in county in 1743, died in April, 1855; wife Dorothea Bouck, was born in county in 1751.
- Getter Harvey**, p o West Fulton, general blacksmith, born in county in 1816; wife Elizabeth Mattice, married in 1868; children two—Mary and Charles. Parents, David and Harriet Efner Getter.
- Getter Henry C.**, p o Fultonham.
- Getter David**, p o Fultonham, general blacksmith, born in county in 1819; wife Harriet Efner, born in county in 1815, married in 1835; children three—Jerome, born October 7, 1838; Harvey, November 16, 1846; Henry, June 16, 1853.
- Goff Robert**, p o Breakabeen, retired farmer, born in Albany county in 1788, settled in county in 1831; wife Eleanor Mosher, born in Columbia county in 1813, married in 1835; children three—Helen E., born in 1840, Susan in 1842, died in 1878, and Martha E., born in 1850. Parents, Robert and Mehitabel Goff, of Rhode Island.
- Ham Philip W.**, p o West Fulton, farmer and miller, born in county in 1845; wife Luanna Gorse, born in 1843, married in 1874; children two—Lulu and Lavinie. Philip purchased mill in 1798, three story, 41 by 42, and engine room, three run of stone, for flour and feed, also a saw and planing mill. Parents, Jeremiah and Sarah Ham.
- Hannay Hamilton F.**, p o West Fulton, farmer and agent for agricultural implements, born in county in 1835, has been justice of peace; wife Naomi Safford, born in county in 1835, married in 1859; children eight. Parents, Andrew A. and Betsy (Wiley) Hannay, of Albany county, settled in county about 1830.
- Haynes Peter S.**, p o Fulton, farmer and broom manufacturer, born in county in 1823; wife Margaret Rickard, born in 1826, married in 1843; children four, three sons and one daughter. Parents, Peter and Nancy Haynes, of county, and the former a son of Jacob and Maria Haynes; Sons of Peter S. are—Emmet, born in 1843, (married Helen Vroman, in 1863; children three) John R., born in 1855, and George B., in 1861.
- Hiltz Gideon G.**, p o Breakabeen, farmer, born in county in 1809, died in 1872; wife Elizabeth Zeh, born in 1813, married in 1831; children seven. Parents, George and Sophia Zeh Hiltz. Parents of Mrs. Hiltz, Geo. and Jane Bartholomew Zeh, the former the son of Joseph and Christina Zeh, both of Schoharie.
- Holliday William E.**, p o Fultonham, farmer and hop grower, born in county in 1815, has been commissioner of highways. Parents, William and Amy Holliday, the former born in Westchester county, and the latter in Schoharie county. Wife of William, Margaret, daughter of William and Margaret Brommagnin, of Albany county, married in 1839; children five.
- Hilts David**, p o Breakabeen.
- Holmes William**, p o West Fulton, farmer, 200 acres, born in Trenton, N. J., in 1783, settled in county in 1800, has held several town offices; wife Mary Goos, of Schoharie county, born in 1796, married in 1812; children eight, living six—Rossman, Harvey, Sally Ann, Mary, Susan, John. Parents, James and Mercy Holmes, of New Jersey.
- Keyser Barney**, p o Breakabeen, farmer and hop grower, born in 1841; wife Esther N. Decker, born in 1840, married in 1871; children two—Adelbert and Floyd. Parents, Jacob and Lauey Keyser, both born in 1801, the latter of whom, died in 1856, and the former in 1880.
- Lawyer Moses**, p o Fultonham, physician, born in county in 1801, died in 1854; wife Elizabeth, daughter of Cornelius and Eva Vroman, born May 21, 1803, married October 22, 1823; children four, two now living—Valentine M., born in 1824, and Angeline, born in 1829. Parents, Jacob, and Nancy Lawyer.
- Lawyer Philip Bergh**, p o Fultonham, farmer, born in county in 1822, has been assessor for eighteen years; wife Mercy J., daughter of Abraham and Lucy A. Deitz, born in county in 1829, married in 1851, died November 17, 1867; children two—William G. and Kittie S. Father, Jacob J. Lawyer, and mother, Nancy Spraker, is now living, having been one hundred years of age December, 1880.
- Lawyer Valentine M.**, p o Fultonham, physician and surgeon, born in county in 1824; wife Catharine, daughter of Jacob and Susan Murphy, born in 1827, married in 1847; children three—George M., born in 1849, Henry D., in 1852, and Edwin V., in 1856. Parents of Valentine, Moses and Elizabeth Lawyer. Jacob Murphy, born October 11, 1799, died April 10, 1858; wife Susan Vroman, born September 21, 1800, died January 9, 1856; children three—Catharine; Mary M. born in 1830; Henry born in 1834.
- Mabey George**, p o West Fulton, farmer, born in Delaware county in 1820, settled in county in 1839; wife Catharine Happelyea, born in Schoharie county in 1820, married in 1841, died in 1845; one child; second wife, Elizabeth Wilson, died in 1850; children two; third wife Mary Rowland, of Lowville, N. Y., married in 1851. Parents, Isaac and Rhoda Webster Mabey.
- McNeil Walter**, p o West Fulton, farmer, and pastor of Baptist church; wife Permelia Eckerson, of county, married in 1854; children four. Parents, Samuel and Thankful McNeil, the former from Vermont, and the latter from Schoharie county.
- Mann Almerian**, p o West Fulton, farmer, born in Albany county in 1827, settled in county in 1836; wife Hannah Chapman, born in 1831, married in 1851; children thirteen, living twelve—Jacob J., Theron, Rosa, Lillie, Julia, Josiah, Alice, Charles, Wellington, Irving, Hattie, and Burr. Parents, Thomas and Elizabeth Mann.
- Mann Josiah**, p o Fultonham, farmer, born in Albany county in 1826; wife Dinah Mattice, born in 1832, married in 1851; two adopted children—Charles and Malinda. Parents, Thomas J. and Elizabeth (Weidman) Mann.
- Mann John H.**, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 65 acres, born in Schoharie in 1819, has been supervisor and town superintendent; wife Maria, daughter of Daniel and Catharine (Vroman) Barnard, born in 1818, married in 1840; children four, two living—John B., and Wealthy A., the former born in 1845; wife Mary Reeves, born in 1849, married in 1865. Parents of John H., Peter W. and Nancy Mann of Schoharie county.
- Mattice Adam L.**, p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in county in 1801, has held several town offices, among them that of assessor; wife Dinah Mattice, born in 1807, married in 1821; children four—Lawrence, Garret, Elizabeth, Dinah. Parents, Lawrence and Maria (Brown) Mattice. Grandfather, Conrad Mattice, was born in Germany and settled in the county prior to the Revolution, in which he took an active part.
- Mattice Henry W.**, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 130 acres, born in county in 1821, has been overseer of the poor ten years; wife Eve Hanes, born in 1819, married in 1840; children nine. Parents, Henry and Elizabeth Mattice, the former a son of Conrad.
- Mayhan John S.**, p o Breakabeen, general merchant, born in county in 1838, has been school commissioner; wife Mina Choate, born in 1847, married in 1866, died in 1871; second wife Mary C., daughter of Jacob W. and Susan (Bergh) Zeh, was born in 1817, married in 1857. Parents John and Susan Mayhan.
- Mitchell William H.**, p o Fultonham, farmer, born in county in 1828, has held office of assessor and others; wife Elmira Bice, born in 1810, married in 1839; children two—Frank R. and Charles D. Parents, Samuel and Polly (Smith) Mitchell, the former of Dutchess, and the latter of Schoharie county. Mr. Mitchell's present residence and farm was formerly one of the most prominent Tory headquarters and was once confiscated.

- Murphy Peter**, p o Fultonham, farmer, born in county in 1801, has been supervisor and postmaster; wife Catharine, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Borst, married in 1837; children nine, seven living. Father, Timothy Murphy, born in Virginia in 1736, came to county as soldier of the Revolution, died in June, 1818, aged sixty-two years; wife Margaret Peck, of Schoharie county, married before the close of the war, died in 1867; children nine, three now living.
- Nelson Stephen**, p o Breakabeen, merchant, born in Greene county in 1813, settled in county in 1841, has been postmaster; wife Betsey Ann Jones, married in 1833, died in 1855; children four; second wife Eliza C. Bergh, married in 1859; children two.
- Reese John**, p o West Fulton, farmer and hop grower, 107 acres, born in Germany in 1828, settled in county in 1845; wife Catharine Sparbeck, born in 1828, married in 1861; children three—Andrew, Sanford, Charles. Parents, Andrew and Barbara Reese, born in Germany, came to this county in 1815, he died in 1871, and the latter is still living at the age of eighty years.
- Reynolds John A.**, p o West Fulton, farmer, born in Albany county in 1839, settled in county in 1854; wife Phoebe, daughter of Christopher and Delaney Rossman, born in 1829, married in 1862; children four—Delaney, George, Lillian, Irving. Parents, Eliphalet and Hannah Reynolds, of Albany county.
- Reynolds Edward**, p o West Fulton, farmer, born in Albany county in 1843, settled in county in 1851; wife Ophelia Holmes, born in 1850, married in 1866; children three—Carrie E., Morris, Elroy. Father, Eliphalet Reynolds.
- Rickard John**, p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in county in 1811; wife Cornelia C. Haynes, born in 1810, married in 1835; children two. George Rickard, brother of John and David, was born in county in 1816. Parents, John and Lydia (Hillinger) Rickard, the former born in 1788, and the latter in 1808. The great grandparents of John were born in Germany and settled in county in 1790.
- Rickard David H.**, p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in county in 1806; wife Wealthy Ann Mattice, born in 1808, married in 1839; children four.
- Rossman William**, p o West Fulton, hotel proprietor, born in county in 1830; wife Lucinda Reynolds, born in 1836, married in 1856; children three. Parents, Christopher and Lancy Rossman.
- Rossman Benjamin**, p o West Fulton, farmer, 185 acres, born in county in 1834; wife Lucinda Spencer, born in county in 1839, married in 1856; children six. Parents, Reuben and Polly Rossman.
- Shaffer Joseph A.**, p o Breakabeen, farmer, born in county in 1833; wife Celia A. Keyser, born in 1855, married in 1876; children one. Parents Christiana and Jacob L. Shaffer.
- Shaler John H. W.**, p o West Fulton, farmer 80 acres, born in county in 1811, has been school superintendent and teacher many years; wife Polly A., daughter of Charles and Polly Dayton, of Connecticut, born in Delaware county in 1813, married in 1836; children four, one living—Allen born in 1819. Parents Rufus Shaler, born in 1761, came to county in 1806, died in 1861, and Hannah (Cole) Shaler, born in 1775, married in 1796, died in 1833.
- Shaver Moses**, p o West Fulton, farmer, 87½ acres, born in county in 1827, has been town collector; wife Louise Robbins, born in 1811, married in 1851; children six—Phoebe born in 1861, Alice in 1866, George in 1869, Joseph in 1871, Frank in 1871, and Emma in 1871. Parents, George and Jane (Mullford) Shaver. Parents of Mrs. Shaver, John and Phoebe Robbins, settled in county in 1811.
- Silliman David**, p o West Fulton, farmer, and retired M. E. clergyman, born in Delaware county, in 1828, settled in 1848, wife Elizabeth Evans, of Michigan, married in 1858, died in 1899; one child; second wife L. C. Dayton, of Delaware county, married in 1867, children three.
- Spickerman Orson**, p o West Fulton, farmer, born in Fulton, in 1815, has been supervisor and justice of peace; wife Huldah Rossman, born in 1816, married in 1869. Orson enlisted in 11th N. Y. Regiment, Co. D, in 1861 and served two years.
- Spickerman George**, p o West Fulton, farmer, born in county in 1821, has been assessor and supervisor; wife Nancy M. Adams, married in 1848; children seven—Rozella, John, Herman, Myron, Seth A., Romelia, Jane. Parents, John and Mary Felter Spickerman, the former of whom settled in county in 1829, was a member of assembly and justice of the peace.
- Stewart Frederick**, p o Fultonham, born in Connecticut in 1795, settled in county about 1800, died April 5, 1876; wife Electa Hubbard, born in 1800; married November 10, 1821, died June 26, 1844; children Richard A., born July 3, 1836, Harriet F., in 1841, Robert in 1825, Lorenzo in 1831, Abigail in 1832.
- VanVorls George**, p o West Fulton, farmer, and apiarist, born in Albany county in 1822, settled in county in 1832, has held many town offices; wife Phoebe Fancher, born in Albany county in 1821, married in 1843, died in 1888; children ten, seven now living; second wife Nancy Morey, born in Schoharie county in 1824, married in 1840. Parents of George, Joseph born in Long Island, and Hannah (Hicks) VanVorls born in Schoharie county, both moved to county in 1832, and died there.
- VanVorls Walter**, p o West Fulton, general merchant, born in county in 1819; wife Sarah Baker, married in 1872; one child—Libbie. Parents, George and Phoebe VanVorls.
- Vroman David J.**, p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in county in 1819, has been supervisor and overseer of poor; wife Minerva Lake, born in Greene county in 1818, married in 1842; children five—Mary, William, Anna, Charlotte B., Sarah L. Parents of Mrs. Vroman, Reuben and Polly J. Lake. Parents of David, John D., and Christiana Vroman. Old homestead of which David owns a portion, was purchased by his grand-father, Samuel Vroman in 1711.
- Vroman Henry D.**, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 35 acres, born in county in 1806, has held several town offices; wife Charity, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Mattice, born in 1817, married in July, 1836. Parents David and Maria Rickard Vroman.
- Vroman Charles W.**, p o Fultonham, farmer, and broom manufacturer 87 acres, born in Schoharie in 1855, was elected commissioner in 1878; wife Anna Almy, born in Greene county in 1859; married in 1877; one daughter—Flora born in 1878.
- Vroman George A.**, p o Fultonham, farmer, born in county in 1849; wife Christiana Bellinger, born in county in 1853, married in 1871; children three—Laura born in 1773; Maggie in 1855; Emmet in 1880. Parents Ephraim B. and Sarah Vroman, of Schoharie.
- Vroman Harmon J.**, p o Fultonham, farmer, born in Schoharie county in 1863, has been assessor and commissioner. Parents Josiah E. and Catharine Deitz, daughter of Captain Peter Deitz, of Revolutionary fame. Grandfather Ephraim Vroman with his two sons were taken prisoners by the Tories and Indians, taken to Canada and exchanged the next year for their own captives.
- Wainwright George P.**, p o Franklinton, farmer and hop grower, 100 acres, born in county in 1822; wife Mary R. Mattice, married in 1851; children two. Parents of George P., were George, born in 1785, died in 1856, aged ninety one, and Eva (Moon) Wainwright born in 1783, and married in 1799. Her grandfather Paul Moon was born in Dutchess county, and settled in County after close of war; he was a soldier during the entire war and died in 1811, aged 38.
- White John F.**, p o Breakabeen, farmer, born in county in 1828, has been commissioner of highways; wife Nancy E. Woodward, born in county in 1835, married in 1860; children two—Ella M. and Charles E. Parents Enoch and Cornelia (Cole) White, the former born in Schenectady county in 1789, came to county in 1800, died in 1842, and the latter born 1794, married in 1810, died in 1876; children ten—five living.
- White Moses**, p o Breakabeen, farmer, born in county in 1813, has been overseer of poor two terms. Father Enoch White.
- Wormer John**, p o Breakabeen, dealer and grower of hops, 515 acres, born in Middleburgh in 1821; wife Mary, daughter of Enoch and Cornelia White, born in 1821, married in 1851; children four—George K., Romette, Ira, Elizabeth. Parents John and Maria (Henry) Wormer, born in Albany county, settled in county in 1805.
- Zeh David**, p o Breakabeen, farmer, 120 acres, born in county in 1836; wife Elizabeth Kniffer, born in county, married in 1867; one child—Alfred.
- Zeh Elias**, p o Breakabeen, miller, born in county in 1839; wife Julia A. D. Barton, born in 1840, married in 1860, died in 1880; children five—Elias, runs the flour and custom mill which is located on Keyzers creek, at Breakabeen, and owned by Washington Bergh.
- Zeh Marcus**, p o Breakabeen, farmer, born in county in 1829, has been supervisor; wife Jennie Hillz, born in county in 1849, married in 1872 children three. Parents, Marcus and Anna (Bartholomew) Zeh, born in county. Grandfather Yost Zeh, was one of prominent farmers of his day.

GILBOA.

- Bailey O. C.**, p o South Jefferson, farmer, 93 acres, born in Jefferson, March 23, 1824; wife Ellen Armstrong, of Jefferson, married October 30, 1851; children one—Hattie L., who married Lynn Hallock, of Middlefield, Otsego county. Cornelius Bailey came to county in 1805.
- Baldwin A. G.**, p o Gilboa, farmer, 576 acres, born in Greenville, December 11, 1827, settled in county in March, 1837, has been justice of peace and supervisor; wife Charlotte E. Stryker, of Conesville, married May 2, 1856; children five—Carrie E., Minnie E., George S., Lewis A., and Grace A.
- Brewster Horace E.**, p o Stamford, farmer, born in Gilboa, January 9, 1837, was assessor one year and resigned.
- Brewster David E.**, p o Stamford, dairy farmer, has a farm of 204 acres, of which Horace E. owns half; first wife Nellie Van Valkenburg; second wife Elizabeth Jones, married November 15, 1875; children one—William H.
- Case Daniel**, p o Broome Centre, farmer, 46 acres, born in Gilboa, July 17, 1817, has been overseer of the poor; wife Betsey Chichester, of Gilboa, married in 1820, died February 19, 1875; children one—James M.
- Case James M.**, p o Broome Centre, merchant, dealer in groceries, dry-goods, boots and shoes, glassware, and crockery, and purchases produce, postoffice is in store, and Mr. Case is deputy postmaster, born in Gilboa; wife Hattie Hawver, of Conesville.
- Clark John H.**, p o South Gilboa, farmer 110 acres, born in Gilboa, May 25, 1811; wife May G. Moore, of Mooresville, married June 30, 1836; children five—Minnie M., Irvin D., William, Emma C., and Joseph A.
- Cook George T.**, p o South Gilboa, farmer, 120 acres, born in Roxbury, Delaware county, January 15, 1837, settled in county in 1857, has been highway commissioner; wife Mariette Simonson, of Roxbury, married December 11, 1860; children two—J. C. born March 16, 1862, and Burt M., born March 23, 1864. Father Joseph Cook of Gilboa, was born in 1799, died March 11, 1869.
- Colby Thomas**, p o Grand Gorge, Delaware county, dairy farmer, 250 acres, born in Delaware county, March 23, 1833, settled in county in September, 1855, has been assessor three years; married, has one child—Thomas Colby.
- Cornell Simon**, p o South Jefferson, farmer, 50 acres, born in Gilboa, in 1829; wife May A. McNeal, of Carlisle; children two—Jesse M. and Orville.
- Crowell C. A.**, p o South Jefferson, farmer, 111 acres, born in Gilboa, January 23, 1830, has been justice of peace and notary public; first wife, Jane Snyder, of Conesville; children two—Ella who married Charles Gardner, of Gilboa, and Jennie; second wife, Adelaide Brown, of Greenville; children one—Victoria.
- Darling John S.**, p o Gilboa, farmer, 106 acres, raised 5,172 pounds hops from three acres land, born in Blenheim, July 4, 1837; wife Maria Long, of Conesville; children two—Mattie, and Minnie B.
- Ellerson Daniel**, p o Gilboa, farmer, 120 acres, born in Gilboa, December 12, 1825; wife Violetta Sanford, of Blenheim, no children living. Grandfather the celebrated David Ellerson, settled the farm owned by David, and is buried near it but no tombstone marks the grave.
- Fraser Cornelius**, p o Gilboa, farmer, 300 acres, born in Gilboa, September 10, 1803; wife Adeline E. Flint, of Delaware county, married December 21, 1828; children four living—Louisa A., Edward A., Mary L., and Helen A. Benoni Fraser was in the Revolution.
- Hastings W. B. C.**, p o South Jefferson, farmer, 72 acres, born in Conesville, April 7, 1819, has been overseer of poor and assessor; wife Aurelia Johnson, of Summit, married April 2, 1849; children five—Martha A., Mary A., William J., Frank C., and Luther.
- Hoagland John**, harness maker and farmer, 150 acres, born in Gilboa, December 14, 1789, and died, was constable and collector; wife Phebe Hall, of Gilboa, married May 12, 1815; children twelve, living six.
- Hoagland John**, deceased, born in New Brunswick, N. J., in 1759, settled in county in 1786; wife Phebe Bard.
- Hoagland G. S.**, p o Gilboa.
- Lane Perry**, p o South Gilboa, dealer in dry-goods and groceries, born in Gilboa, February 25, 1827, has been postmaster; wife Roxana Simonson, married October 15, 1877; children one—Inez.
- Leonard D. M.**, p o Broome Centre, physician and surgeon, owns 400 acres, born in Roxbury, Delaware county, August 27, 1837, settled in county January 1, 1882; first wife dead; children four—Emma R., Francis A., Ursula J., and Rudolph R. Second wife, Emma J. McLench, of Gilboa, married January 1, 1879.
- Mackey James G.**, p o Broome Centre, farmer, 160 acres, born in Broome, March 7, 1812; wife Catharine Broome, married April 8, 1838; children six living—James A., Mary, Rose, Helen, Naomi, and Frank B.
- Mackey S. D.**, p o Gilboa, farmer, 250 acres, born in Gilboa, October 25, 1819, has been town clerk, poormaster, and supervisor; wife Jane Shuts, of Greene county, married August 13, 1843; children two—Edgar, died May 1, 1872, and Reed born February 10, 1854. Edgar married Georgianna Wiltzie; children three—Wiltzie, Ward J., and Frederick K.
- Mattice Jacob H.**, p o Breakabeen, farmer, with 20 acres of hops, 600 acres land, born in Gilboa, April 22, 1810, has been overseer of poor, and collector; wife Mary Fox, of Gilboa; children six living—John, Jacob M., Henry M., Katie A., Mandane, and Richard P. Father Lawrence Mattice, of Middleburgh, was son of a German, who was born on the Atlantic.
- More Liberty P.**, p o Stamford, farmer, 105 acres, born in Andes, Delaware county, February 8, 1811, settled in county December 1, 1865, was assessor; wife Ruth A. VanDyke, of Roxbury, married February 7, 1863; children living four—William P., George L., Clyde, and Rosetta.
- Poppino D. M.**, p o Stamford, farmer 250 acres, born in Gilboa, December 21, 1825, has been assessor; wife Betsey Ferris, of Roxbury, Delaware county, married October 23, 1855; children three—Willie F. born July 26, 1856; Otis J. born July 15, 1858; and Nellie born April 18, 1869.
- Reed Luman**, p o Gilboa, dealer in general merchandise, owns 700 acres, born in Blenheim, October 10, 1818, has been supervisor and member of assembly; wife Marietta, daughter of Dr. Knapp, of Blenheim, married June 13, 1844; children seven—Susan K., Martha J., Helen L., Hattie B., Colba, A. K. and H. L. Father Colba Reed came from Vermont in 1810, and was first supervisor of Gilboa in 1845.
- Richtmyer John H.**, p o Gilboa, farmer, 160 acres, born in Conesville, February 16, 1815, has been assessor; wife Lany A. Patrie, of Conesville, married September 27, 1837; children three—Mariette (deceased) Frank, born September 25, 1840, married Della Powell, of Roxbury, and Alvin born December 25, 1853, married Sarah Street, of Gilboa; children one—Eugene S. Grant-grandfather Uriah Richtmyer was one of the first settlers in Conesville.
- Ruliffson Calvert I.**, p o South Gilboa, farmer, 150 acres, born in Gilboa, October 9, 1833; wife Mary Johnson, of Gilboa, married January 16, 1861; children one—Edward J.
- Selleck Ezra B.**, p o Broome Centre, farmer, 171 acres, born in Broome, August 31, 1818; first wife M. B. Butler; second Abigail Losey; third, Helena Lee; children four—Merilla B., Milton J., Stephen L., and Rachel. Father Milton Selleck was from Salisbury, Connecticut; wife Hannah Mackey.
- Shew John H.**, p o Gilboa, farmer, 368 acres, born in Gilboa, November 23, 1811, has been assessor, commissioner of highways, overseer of poor, and justice of the peace; wife Sallie P. Morris, of Blenheim, married November 29, 1835; children two—James H., and Rev. John T.; wife of James H., Eliza C. VanDusen; children six—Emmett, Emma I., John T., Minnie and Mina, (twins) and Ethel. Rev. John T. was ordained Methodist minister, and preached in Greene county three years, in Delaware county three years, and Greene county again, two years, and died July 15, 1879; first wife Elizabeth Conrow; second wife Deborah E. VarDusen; children living, three—Hattie May, Ella C., and Sarah D.
- Shaler Rufus**, deceased, born in Haddam, Connecticut, settled in county in 1838; wife Hannah Cole, of Haddam; children seven—Henry, of Ontario; Lucina; Benjamin C., of Gilboa; Nathan T.; John, of Fulton; H. W.; and Jeremiah. Rufus was manufacturer of Shaler's Arctic Creamery, and dealer in Mayhew's steam churn motor, butter salting scale, and best butter worker.
- Shaler George C.**, p o Gilboa.
- Southard Smith**, p o Gilboa, farmer, 200 acres, born in Westerlo, Albany county, June 26, 1818, settled in county April 1, 1863, has been assessor three years; first wife, Jerusha Shuts; children two—Garaelia and Rosella; second wife, Maria Traver; children two—Dewitt and Ellery S.

Sowles E. A., p o South Gilboa, farmer, 106 acres, born in Gilboa, April 14, 1819, has been trustee of schools; wife Mary Burns; children four—Roma who married Thomas Mayhan; Sarah; Ella; and Hattie:

Zeh Philip J., p o Gilboa.

Zellie David, p o Gilboa, merchant, owns several village lots, dealer in all kinds of merchandise, business established in 1866, produce taken in exchange for goods, born in Fulton, December 28, 1824, has been commissioner of highways and notary public; first wife Melissa Gray, married June 5, 1850; children one—Charles. Second wife, Adeline Richtmyer; married October 1, 1862; children four, living three—Nellie W., Floyd M., and Josiah. Father Peter P. Zellie, born in Middleburgh.

JEFFERSON.

Allen Avery H., p o North Harpersfield, farmer, 190 acres, born in Connecticut November 3, 1800, settled in county in 1810, has been highway commissioner six years; wife Polly D. Brown, of Vermont, married in January, 1828, died January 30, 1875; children four—Almon J., Eunice A., Mary Ann, and Avery. Father, Amos Allen, settled near Middleburgh in 1810.

Armstrong Lucius, p o Jefferson, farmer and drover, 4 acres, born in Jefferson September 13, 1824, has been overseer of poor; wife Sarah A., daughter of Nahum and Esther (Mann) Danforth, of Jefferson, married February 21, 1849. Parents, Jacob and Catherine (Carl) Armstrong, the former of whom settled in town about 1825. Grandfather, John Armstrong, was stolen from his bed in Germany, when only sixteen years of age and forced into service by the British, but deserted and joined Washington's army near New York, and served as his waiter three years.

Avery Ben H., p o Jefferson, dealer in general merchandise, and owner of town hall, born in Jefferson. Father, Bernah Avery of this town, was son of John Avery of Connecticut.

Barnum Joseph, p o North Harpersfield, dairy farmer, 120 acres, born in Jefferson on present farm, June 25, 1826, has been justice of peace; wife Naomi A., daughter of Adam and Elceta Kniskern, of Blenheim, married November 25, 1857. Parents, Ira and Sally E. (Dart) Barnum, the former settled in town about 1825. Grandfather, Amos Barnum.

Clark A. W., p o Jefferson, dental surgeon, owns 40 acres of land, born in Blenheim August 20, 1811, settled in village in 1865, has been town clerk and notary public; wife Sarah A. Phincoe, of Jefferson, married September 5, 1865; one son—A. Lamancha. Parents, John A. and Catharine Clark.

Danforth George W., p o Jefferson, farmer and assessor, 200 acres, born on present farm February 4, 1822; wife Martha, daughter of Russel Baird, of town, married in 1860; children six, living. Father, Nahum Danforth, settled on same farm. Mother, Esther, daughter of Levi Mann.

Dart Ezra, p o Jefferson, dairy farmer, 84 acres, born in Jefferson December 29, 1828; wife Ann M., daughter of Ezra and Polly Woodward, married December 21, 1848; children two—Lydia Moxley, and Eli M. Parents, William and Hannah Dart, the former a son of William, and was one of first settlers in town about 1808.

Dyckman George A., p o Jefferson, hop and dairy farmer, 134 acres, born in Schoharie June 10, 1835, settled in town in 1857; wife Sarah, daughter of Aaron and Phebe Tyler, married October 2, 1866; children five. Parents, Michael and Prudence Dyckman, the former a son of Jacob Dyckman, one of first settlers in Schoharie.

Gallup Silas, p o Jefferson, hop and dairy farmer, 170 acres, born in Jefferson October 2, 1819, settled on present farm in 1864, has been justice of peace fifteen years; first wife Caroline Conkling; children eight; second wife Eleanor, daughter of Parnellia and Rachel Judd, of Summit, married March 1, 1859; children two. Parents, Nathan and Parnellia Gallup, the former a son of Nathan Gallup who settled in town about 1805.

Gallup Winthrop D., p o Summit, dairy farmer, 150 acres, born in Jefferson January 17, 1841, settled on present farm in 1848; wife Parnellia, daughter of Aaron and Mary Rifenbark, of Summit, married January 31, 1868. Parents, Elao and Nancy (Dyer) Gallup, the former a son of Levi, a son of Nathan Gallup.

Grant Jeremiah, p o Jefferson, farmer, 102 acres, born in Delaware county October 18, 1826, settled in county March 24, 1852, has been inspector of elections; wife Mary, daughter of Obadiah and Mary Ruland, married January 15, 1850; children two—Viola Vaughn, and Roscoe. Parents, Donald and Sarah Ann Grant, of Delaware county.

Havens Robert G., p o Jefferson, physician and surgeon, born in Albany February 7, 1837, settled in county in 1840, has been assemblyman and coroner, studied medicine with Drs. Armsby and March, and attended lectures at the Albany Medical College from which he was graduated in 1871. Commenced practice in Jefferson in 1865; wife Lily R., daughter of John J. and Eveline Jarvis, married September 6, 1864; children five.

Hubbard Oscar C., p o Jefferson, proprietor of Jefferson House, owns 1 acres, born in Deerfield, Mass., May 18, 1818, settled in county in 1849; wife Lavinia, daughter of Lemuel Eggleston, married in 1848; children four. Parents, Lucius and Jerusha Hubbard, the former a native of Massachusetts, and the latter of Maryland.

Jones H. V., p o Jefferson, printer.

Kennedy William, p o Stamford, Delaware county, farmer, 250 acres, born in Stamford June 11, 1810, settled in county in 1839, has been assessor and inspector of elections; wife Olive D., daughter of R. G. Dayton, married September 25, 1865; children three—Cora M., Roy D., Nellie D. Parents, Alexander and Agnes Kennedy, came from Scotland about 1826.

Maynard Henry N., p o Stamford, dairy farmer, 255 acres, born in Harpersfield, Delaware county, August 22, 1820, settled in county in 1842; wife Eloursae, daughter of William and Irene Judd, married February 28, 1842; children six, living one—Arthur, born July 28, 1855; wife Libbie Hiltz, of Fulton, born June 19, 1868. Parents, Coley and Eleanor Maynard.

Merchant Charles W., p o Jefferson, dairy farmer, 120 acres, born in Jefferson August 12, 1831, has been excise commissioner four years; wife Caroline, daughter of Joseph and Betsy (Minor) Conklin, married in December, 1856. Parents, Joel and Asenath (Hubbard) Merchant, the former a son of one of first settlers of town.

Stanley Joseph R., p o Jefferson, furniture dealer, born in Harpersfield, Delaware county, January 21, 1826, settled in county in 1848, and in Jefferson in 1867; enlisted in Company E, Third New York Cavalry, March 27, 1862, and was mustered out March 29, 1865; wife Kate Stevens, of Jefferson, married April 16, 1865; children one, adopted—Allie Niles.

Stewart John, p o South Jefferson, farmer and assessor, 200 acres, born in Gilboa March 11, 1838, settled on farm in 1842; wife Mary J. Curtis, of Blenheim, married January 11, 1861; children four—Frank R., Willie, Charles, and Delma. Father, Elijah Stewart, a native of Washington county.

Twitchell Ezra, p o Jefferson, merchant, born in Jefferson November 5, 1811, commenced business in 1867, has been supervisor; wife Abbie, daughter of Chancy and Lucy Minor, married February 5, 1865. Parents, Ira and Emma Twitchell, the former a son of Harrison, who came from Connecticut about 1838.

Vaughn Heman, p o Summit, farmer and local preacher, 275 acres, born in Jefferson September 9, 1818, settled on present farm in 1840; wife Abigail, daughter of Nathan and Parnellia Gallup, of Jefferson, married February 5, 1840; children four—Parnellia, Nathan, John W., and Herbert D. Father, Samuel Vaughn, was son of one of first settlers of town.

Vaughn John W., p o Summit, hop and dairy farmer, 140 acres, born in Jefferson May 24, 1852, has been town clerk and justice of peace; wife Mary A., daughter of William and Catherine Stanley, of Jefferson, married June 20, 1874; children two—Charles and Nellie. Father, Heman Vaughn.

White George C., p o Jefferson, farmer, 136 acres, born on present farm May 18, 1852, has been in the tax collector's office in Brooklyn, and the custom house in New York; wife Mary N., daughter of Samuel H. and Susie Clay, of East Albany, married February 10, 1871; children living, two—Alfred S., and Irene. Parents, Alfred S. and Julia Ann (Snyder) White, the former a son of Benjamin, a resident of the town.

MIDDLEBURGH.

Wilcox M. S., p o Jefferson, lawyer, owns 824 acres, born in Harpersfield, Delaware county, in 1836, settled in county in 1865; wife Lydia G., daughter of Ezra G. and Ruth (Gaylord) Beard, of Jefferson, married December 31, 1860; children three—one son, two daughters. Parents, Alonzo B. and Hannah (Swift) Wilcox, the former a son of Samuel Wilcox, one of first settlers of Harpersfield.

Albro Wm. H., p o Middleburgh, born in Middleburgh in 1810, has been school commissioner; wife Elizabeth Dodge, of county, married October 31, 1847; children two—Arthur D. and Grace. Father Benjamin Albro, born in Albany county, December 25, 1802, came to county in 1836; wife Mary E. Bassler, of Albany county, born in 1817, married in 1837; children three—William H., Amanda, and Mary.

Alger Jesse H., p o Middleburgh, lumberman and farmer, born in county in 1818; wife Maria Laxton, born in 1822, married in 1839; children nine. Father Jared Alger, born in Saratoga county, in 1782, came to county in 1810, died in 1867.

Atchinson E. D., p o Middleburgh, proprietor of Atchinson House, 12 acres, born in county in 1812, purchased hotel in 1862, has been town clerk and overseer of poor; wife Anna Maria Mills, married in 1839; children one—George S., born in 1839. Father Aaron Atchinson, of Massachusetts, settled in county, where he died.

Babcock Daniel, p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in county December 21, 1827; wife Almira Williams, of Albany county, born in 1835, married in 1853; children five—Jessie, born in 1857, Dora, in 1859, Mary E., in 1861, Elias, in 1863, and Ralph B., 1866. Parents Walter and Elizabeth Babcock.

Babcock Walter, p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in Wright in 1803; wife Elizabeth Zimmer, of county, born in 1808, married in 1827; children seven, three daughters and four sons.

Badgley Jerome B., p o Middleburgh, general drug and hardware dealer, born in Schenectady county in 1835, settled in county in 1840; wife Mary C. Manning, of county, married in 1865; children one—Claude M. Father George B. Badgley, of Schenectady county, came to county in 1840, died in September, 1876, was post-master.

Barkman Daniel, p o Hunter's Land, retired farmer, born in Rensselaer county, in 1803, settled in county in 1815, has been justice of peace thirty-six years; wife Submit Schofelt, of county, born in 1814, married in 1834, died in 1857; children two—Sarah J., born in 1818, and Ellen, born in 1841; second wife Amanda Schofelt, married in 1839. Newman Dings, of county, born in 1833; wife Ellen Barkman, married in 1865; children two.

Bassler Wellington E., p o Middleburgh, general merchant, born in Middleburgh in 1818; wife Alida Manning, of county, born in 1853, married in 1874. Father David Bassler, born in county in 1822, retired merchant; wife Augusta Tibbetts, born in county in 1827, married in 1847.

Becker James B., p o Middleburgh, harness manufacturer and dealer, born in Albany county in 1855, settled in county in 1861, purchased entire stock from G. M. Frisbie in 1874 and has carried on a successful trade since; wife Alice Barton, of county, born in 1858, married in 1877; children two. Mrs. Becker deals in all kinds of Millinery goods at her place on Wells Avenue.

Becker John, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 120 acres, born in county January 29, 1819; wife Rebecca, daughter of Jeremiah Borst, born in 1818, married in 1860; children seven. Father Storm S. Becker of Holland, settled in county and served in the Revolution.

Becker William F., born in county in 1808, died in 1880; wife Margaret Crounce, of Albany county, born in 1826, married in 1846; children one—Adam. Father of Mrs. Becker, Rev. Adam Crounce, of county, born in 1797, died in 1865.

Barney & Dennison, p o Middleburgh.

Becker Bartholomew, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 1,500 acres, born in county in 1819, was the first school superintendent; wife Pluma Cole of county, born in 1811, married May 18, 1861; children three—Lonett, born in 1865, Rosetta in 1872, and Urminda in 1874. Father of Mrs. Becker, Elder L. P. Cole of Vermont, came to county in 1819; wife Charlotte Weed of county, born in 1811, married in 1823.

Becker Joseph, Jr., p o Middleburgh, general grocer and dealer in boots and shoes, born in Fulton in 1840, has been justice of peace and assessor; wife Mary E. Mallory of county, born in 1848, married December 6, 1868; children one—Gracie, born October 25, 1870. Father Joseph Becker, born in county in 1798, died in 1869; wife Christina Zeb, of county, married in 1866; children thirteen, living nine.

Beekman D., p o Middleburgh, president of National bank and farmer, born in Sharon in 1810; wife Elizabeth Richtmyer, of county, married in 1839; children two—Dow and Willie G. Father Nicholas Beekman, born in Sharon in 1790, was member of assembly in 1841, died January 13, 1874; wife Elida Becker of county, died in 1872; children six.

Bellinger David, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 160 acres, born in county in 1818. Brothers John I., born in 1823 and William J., born in 1830. Father John M. Bellinger, of county, born in 1790, died in 1875; wife Miss Schell, of county; children four. Grandfather Marcus Bellinger, was born on same farm; children nine, of whom now only one is living—Peter, who is over 80 years of age. Miss Eve Bellinger was born in county in 1796, and died February 1, 1881.

Bellinger George, p o Gallupsville, farmer, 157 acres, born in county in 1811, has been assessor; wife Christina Sidney, of county, born in 1817, married in 1836, children five. Father John M. Bellinger, of county.

Borst George E., p o Middleburgh, harness maker, born in Middleburgh, January 27, 1816, purchased business from Mr. Hinman in 1850, and employs five hands; wife Alice G. Dayton, married June 8, 1870; children four.

Borst Harvey, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 175 acres, born in county in 1832; wife Isabella Tuttle, of New York city, married in 1856. Brother Joseph Borst, of county, born in 1830; wife Lelinda Bellinger, of county, married in 1853. Father Peter H. Borst, of Fulton.

Borst Henry, p o Middleburgh, 80 acres, born in Middleburgh in 1841; wife Mary Noxon, of county, married in 1863; children four. Father Peter Borst. Grandparents Henry and Margaret Borst.

Borst William, p o Middleburgh, miller, born in county in 1838; wife Margaret Bouck, married in 1858; children four. Parents, Peter and Eliza Borst.

Borst Peter, p o Middleburgh, member of firm of Borst Bros., born in 1855; wife Nancy Rockefeller, of county, born in 1855, married in 1877; children two. The brothers built mill in 1877, it is three stories, 38 by 25 feet, has four run of stone, an unlimited capacity, and does general shipping and custom work.

Blodgett Hiram A., p o Middleburgh, post master and dealer in books and stationery, born in county in 1828, enlisted in Co. I, No. 76, N. Y., and was first lieutenant of company; wife Mary E. Dyckman, of county, married in 1856; children one—Louis. Father John Blodgett.

Bouck Sylvester, p o Middleburgh, 210 acres, born in county in 1813; wife Rozella Cook, of county, married in 1839. Father Joseph T. Bouck, was born in 1809, died in 1878; children six—Henry V., Peter B., Nancy, John J., George J., and Sylvester.

Bouck Thomas W., p o Middleburgh, farmer and justice of peace, born in county in 1821; wife Rebecca Zeb, of county, born in 1823, married in 1871; children six. Parents Thomas and Nancy Bouck.

Bouck David D., p o Middleburgh, 133 acres, born in county in 1817; wife Catharine, daughter of Peter Loucks, born in 1817, married in 1836; children two—Elizabeth, born in 1839, and Martin L., born in 1845. Parents David C. and Elizabeth Richtmyer Bouck.

Bouck Thomas I., p o Middleburgh, retired farmer, 56 acres, born in county in 1805; wife Maria Bouck, daughter of John C., married in 1827, died in 1842; second wife Nancy Mattice, married in 1861. Father third wife Eliza Hagar, married in 1772, died in 1811. Jacob Bouck, born in county in 1772, died in 1811. Grandfather Thomas, was the son of Nicholas Bouck, who settled in county from Germany at an early day.

Clow Nicholas D., p o East Cobleskill, retired farmer and cloth dresser, born in Greene county in 1818, settled in county in 1819; wife Julia Ann Eckerson, of county, born in 1822, married in 1844. Parents Lawrence and Elizabeth Clow.

Cornell John H., p o Middleburgh.

Cook Peleg Jr., farmer, 174 acres, born in county in 1822, and died; wife Eliza A. Bassler, p o Hunter's Land, born in county in 1823, married in 1846; children three—Minnie, born in 1861, Lillie, in 1865, and Elmer P., in 1871. Father Peleg Cook, was an early settler and purchased present farm. Father of Mrs. Cook, Henry A. Bassler, born in Albany county; wife Mary Saddlemire, born in Albany county in 1797, married in 1816; children seven.

Corwin John, p o Middleburgh.

Danforth Dr. Volney, physician and surgeon, born in Middleburgh in 1811, died February 11, 1880, was supervisor; wife Caroline Bouck, of Middleburgh, born in 1822, married in 1842; children four, daughters. Father Thomas P. Danforth.

Davis James W., p o Middleburgh, proprietor of custom flour, saw, lath, shingle and plaster mills, born in Montgomery county in 1822, settled in county in 1828; wife Melissa Conover, of Montgomery county, married in 1851; children six. The mills are located on Schoharie creek, two and one-half miles from Middleburgh.

Decker Jerome, p o Hunter's Land, farmer and school teacher, owns an extensive flagging stone quarry, born in county in 1806; wife Catharine Turner, of Albany county, born in 1811, married in 1829. Brother Ethan Decker, born in county in 1828; wife Elizabeth Shultz, of Albany county, married in 1878. Father Aaron Decker, of county.

Dexter James, p o Middleburgh, flour, grain, and seed shipping merchant, born in county in 1820; wife Joanna Warner, of county, married in 1850; children six. Father E. M. Dexter, of Albany county.

Dunn William, p o Middleburgh, merchant tailor, born in Montgomery county in 1812, settled in county in 1819; wife Kate Scribner, of Middleburgh, married March 17, 1838. Father Michael Dunn, of Ireland, settled in county in 1819, died in 1874.

Durham Frank J., p o Middleburgh, general dealer in stoves, tinware, and sheet iron, born in Middleburgh in 1826; wife Jennie Lawton, of county, married in 1879. Father, Daniel C. Durham, of county.

Dodge George W., p o Middleburgh.

Engle W. H., p o Middleburgh, lawyer, born in Albany county in 1778, settled in county in 1813, has been district attorney and division revenue collector; wife Almira W. Lathrop, of county, married in 1815; children four. Father, Christopher Engle, of Albany county.

Fox Louis, p o Middleburgh, manufacturer of straw paper, born in county in 1835; wife Elizabeth Wilber, of county, married in 1858; children five. Father, William Fox, of Summit.

Freemyer A. J., p o Middleburgh, owner and proprietor of Freemyer House, born in county in 1826, purchased hotel from Abram Snyder in 1860; wife Mary C. Shafer, married in 1824; children two—Margaret E., and William S. The ancestors of Mr. Freemyer were the oldest and most prominent settlers of county.

Frisbie G. M., p o Middleburgh, general merchant.

Gernsey M., p o Middleburgh, dealer in general merchandise, born in Middleburgh in 1826, commenced business in 1833; wife Alida C., daughter of Garrett W. Becker, born in Fulton in 1830, married in 1847; children seven, daughters. Father, William Gernsey, born in county in 1825; wife Ferona C. Comstock, born in Connecticut in 1809.

Guernsey James J., p o East Cobleskill, farmer, born in county in 1818; wife Adaline Schermerhorn, of county, born in 1825, married in 1841; children six. Father, Elisha Guernsey, of county. Barner Aker, born in county in 1817, 201 acres; wife Daisy Gernsey, of county, born in 1860, married in 1877; children one.

Guernsey Ezra, p o Middleburgh, farmer 120 acres, born in county in 1813; wife Louise Smith, of county, born in 1831, married in 1856; children two—George D., and Elie J. Parents, John and Eva Guernsey.

Guernsey John, p o Middleburgh, 150 acres, born in county in 1827; wife Eva Hoese, of county, born in 1812, married in 1830, died in 1853; children ten; second wife Juliet Netherway, of county, married in 1854; children four. Father, Elisha Guernsey, born in Connecticut in 1750, came with his father, Nathaniel Guernsey, and settled in county in 1785, where the latter died in 1830, aged ninety-five years, and the former in 1812.

Hanes Freeman S., p o Middleburgh, farmer and mowing machine agent, 265 acres, born in Fulton in 1828; wife Caroline Redick, of Middleburgh, born in 1837; married in 1867. Father, Peter Hanes, born in Fulton in 1795, died in 1839; wife Nancy Lawyer, of Middleburgh, born in 1792, died in 1870; children ten, living six. Peter Redick, of Canada, settled in county in 1825, died in 1811; wife Eva Lawyer, of Middleburgh, born in 1801, married in 1816, children living, one.

Herron Peter, p o Cobleskill, born in county May 23, 1807; wife Susannah Hechman, of Hamilton county, born February 21, 1812, married July 13, 1831; children seven—five sons and two daughters. Father William, was son of John Herron, who was born in Scotland, and settled in county at an early day.

Hubbell Alva, retired gentleman, born in Albany county in 1798, died in 1875; wife Rhoda A. Boughton, of Albany county, married in 1823. Father of Mrs. Hubbell, Baldwin Boughton, born in Albany county in 1795, died in 1849; wife Maria Susannah Alma, of Albany county, born June 24, 1804, married in 1823; children living, eight.

Humphrey Phillip, p o Middleburgh, farmer, and justice of peace, born in Albany county in 1829, settled in county in 1840; wife Sarah E. Nelson, of Albany county, married in 1850; children one—Arlington.

Hutchings S., p o Middleburgh, dealer in hardware, stoves, tin, and house furnishing goods, 210 acres, born in county in 1810; wife Charity Scott, of county, born in 1812, married in 1861. Father Morgan Hutchings born in Columbia county, in 1803, settled in county in 1836, died in 1878, was a miller and farmer.

Hyde David R., farmer, born in Canterbury, Connecticut, October 21, 1822, settled in county in 1852; wife Louise Becker, of county, born in county in 1829, married in 1846; children two—Frederick R., and George B. Father David Hyde, of Connecticut. Father of Mrs. Hyde, Jacob Becker, born in county October 23, 1791, died in 1862; wife Catharine, daughter of Joseph Borst, born in 1790, married in 1810, died in 1858; children ten, living five.

Kennedy William A., p o Middleburgh, carpenter and builder, born in county in 1820; wife Lavina Bouck, of county, married in 1862; children one—Willie C. Father Alexander Kennedy, born in county in 1766, died in 1841.

Kinney John, p o Middleburgh, broom manufacturer, 70 acres, born in Ireland, in 1831, settled in county, in 1851, erected factory in 1865, two stories high, 18 by 24 feet, producing from twelve to sixteen dozen brooms per year; wife Elizabeth McKinstry, of Ireland, born in 1832, married in 1857; children four—Amelia, Lizzie, Emmett R., and Charles N.

Kniffen John B., p o Middleburgh, farmer, and hop grower, 106 acres, born in Albany county in 1835, settled in county in 1842; wife Tabitha Warner, of county, born in 1835, married in 1856; children eight. Father John Kniffen, of Albany county, died in 1817, aged 53 years.

Kniffen Erskine, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 120 acres, born in county in 1838; wife Flora Hill, of Albany county, married in 1878. Father John E. Kniffen.

Kuiskens B. V., p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in county, in 1825; wife Sarah, daughter of Freeman Stanton, married in May, 1842; children one—Alice. Father Joseph Kuiskens, born in county, March 22, 1801, died August 9, 1871; wife Gertrude Vroman, of county, born May 28, 1804, married January 15, 1821, died August 9, 1871; children eight, six sons and two daughters. Thomas Kuiskens, born in Montgomery county, March 11, 1797, came to county in 1818; wife Maria, daughter of Judge Abraham Lawyer, born in county, April 3, 1798, married August 2, 1820, died July 3, 1880; children seven, three sons and four daughters.

Lampman John P., p o Cobleskill, farmer, 150 acres, born in county in 1836; wife Maria Woodford, of county, married in 1817, died in 1867; children three; second wife Sarah Borst, of Otsego county, married in 1865. Father, Philip Lampman, of Greene county, settled in county in 1818, died in 1873.

Lawton Peter, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 118 acres, born in county in 1826; wife Emily Bechman, of county, born in 1828, married in 1850; children seven. Father, Peleg Lawton, born in Connecticut, settled in county in 1800, and served in war of 1812.

Lawyer Andrew, p o Middleburgh, blacksmith, and farmer, 30 acres, born in county in 1823; wife Cornelia E. Sleighter, of county, born in 1825, married in 1851; children eleven.

Obituary of Lyman Seeley.

Died at his resident in Middleburgh, N.Y. May 24th. 1888. He was born in Huntington, Conn. July 3rd. 1794. His occupation for many years was that of saddle and harness maker in Bridgeport, Conn. From Bridgeport he moved to Preston Hollow, Albany co., N.Y. where in 1826, he married Miss Betsey Whitting, and then at the solicitation of Hon. Thomas P. Danforth he moved to Middleburgh. Where he engaged in the business of gate-keeper for the Middleburgh Bridge co., in which occupation he remained for over forty years and untill his death.

His wives death preceeded his some 14 years, since that time his neice Miss Rachel Palmer, had lived with him and taken charge of his domestic affairs and during the last few years through his illness has watched over and administered every attention pertain to his comfort.

He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was a pensioner for the services rendered during that war. His funeral was held at the Lutheran Church Middleburgh, and buried in the Middleburgh Cemetery.

(This was received Jan. 24- 1938 from Mrs. Kate V. Danforth, of Middleburgh, copied from her scrap-book.)

On the stone in Middleburgh Cemetery, N.Y. Lyman Seeley died May 24-1888. age 93- 10- 21 days. Elizabeth wife of Lyman Seeley died May 7. 1874. age 67- 8mos.

(Copied by B. W. Doran 1832- from cemetery stone.)

As a child I remember that my father "Timothy Whiting" told me that his aunt Elizabeth (Betsey) Whiting married Lyman Seeley, Toll-gate keeper at Middleburgh, Schoharie co., N.Y. Mr. Whiting died Compton, Calif. Dec. 11- 1930. age 92- 6- 1 day. This he told me many times.

(Information by word of mouth from Timothy Whiting born Philadelphia, Jefferson co., N.Y. June 10- 1838.)

I have a letter written by Betsey Seely, dated May 4- 1873. Middleburgh, N.Y. in which she said. "We have been married 47 years, my husbands name is Lyman Seeley, he is 77 years old next month. by brother Samuel Whiting died three years ago. Clarissa died about ten years ago." This was written to her nephew John Jeremiah Palmer of Dansville, N.Y. (His mother was a sister of Betsey and Clarissa, and Samuel Danforth Whiting, and Samuel D. Whiting is my grand-father.) Mr. Whiting died Sept. 23- 1871. Philadelphia, Jefferson co., N.Y.

Rachel Palmer spoken of as neice of Lyman Seeley, was Mrs. Seeleys neice, she is a sister of (John Jeremiah Palmer, born April 10- 1812, Middleburgh, N.Y.) the Palmer family moved to Bath, Steuben co., N.Y. 1815. after John J. married and his children born Bath, his family moved to Dansville, 1860. where he died March 31- 1899.

signed by

(Mrs.) Blanche Whiting Doran
340- W. School St.
Compton, California

February 1, 1938.

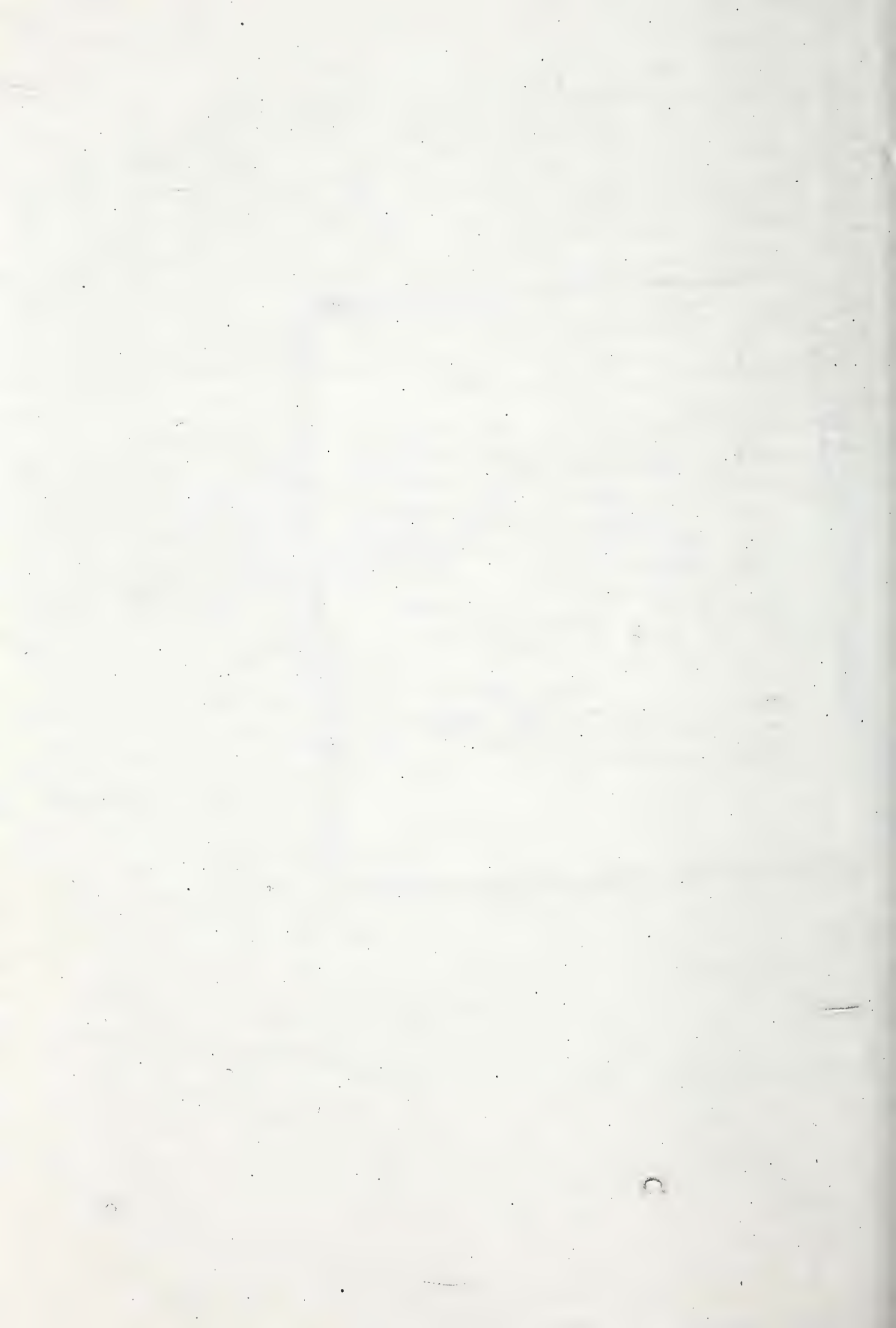
p. xv

10 Oct. 1932

Wife of Lyman Seeley, b. in 1806, should be Elizabeth Whiting. She is the youngest child of family of John, Mary, Ann, Samuel Danforth, Hannah and Clara Whiting.

Aunts and uncles of Timothy Whiting, b. Philadelphia, N. Y., June 10, 1838.

Mrs. Blanche Whiting Doran
340 West School Street
Compton, California



- Lawyer Jacob H.**, p o Middleburgh, 24 acres, born in county in 1836; wife Rosanna Oliver, of county, married in 1856; died in 1871; children six; second wife Miss M. Oliver, married in 1872; children three. Father, David, son of Andrew Lawyer.
- Lawyer Dr. James**, p o Middleburgh, physician and surgeon, born in Middleburgh in 1810, was graduated from the Allopathic University of New York City in 1832, practiced there three years, settled in Middleburgh in 1835; wife Eliza Irwin, of New York, married in 1833; died July 26, 1880; children one—a son. Father, George Lawyer, of Schoharie.
- Leroy John H.**, p o Middleburgh, retired merchant, farmer, carpenter and builder, born in Middleburgh in 1812; wife, Melissa Orr, of Greene county, married March 8, 1871. Father, Richard Leroy, born in Montgomery county, came to county in 1840.
- Lewis Benjamin F.**, p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in Chautauqua county in 1823, settled in county in 1862; wife, Lavina M., daughter of Martinus Tice, born in 1833; married in 1858; children, three. Father John Lewis, of Chautauqua county. Parents of Mrs. Lewis were descendants of the earliest settlers of county.
- Loucks Henry J.**, p o Middleburgh, retired farmer, 50 acres, born in Middleburgh in 1801; wife, Ruth Netherway, married in 1827, died March 19, 1865; children four—Jeremiah, born in 1831; Thomas, born in 1836; Margaret, born in 1839, died in 1867; and Maria C., born in 1843; second wife, Sophia Schermerhorn, of county, married in November, 1865, died September 17, 1869; third wife, Eva Richtmyer, of county, married March 21, 1870. Father, Jeremiah Loucks, Jr., Thomas Loucks married Sophia Rickard, born in county in 1812, married in 1839; children, seven.
- Macomber Merrit**, p o Hunter's Land, justice of peace and farmer, 130 acres, born in county in 1816; wife, Marsh Snyder, of county, married in 1839, children two—Edna and Clinton. Father Resolved, son of Rescomb Macomber, who was born in Massachusetts, settled in Hunter's Land before 1800.
- Manning H. F.**, p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in county in 1827; wife, Maria Beckman, born in 1833, married in 1852; children, one—Alida, born in 1853.
- Martin Adam**, p o Middleburgh, executor.
- Mattice Joseph**, p o Middleburgh, farmer and hop grower, 625 acres, born in county June 26, 1825; wife, Elizabeth Bouck, daughter of Bartholomew, married in 1850, children, three—Catharine, Peter, and Zelma. Father, Peter Mattice, born in county in 1781, died in 1861; children, twelve, living nine.
- Mitchell Walter E.**, p o Middleburgh, banker, born in county in 1852; wife, Celia R. Robinson, of Otsego county, married in 1879. Father, Peter H. Mitchell, born in county.
- Pinder Peter N.**, p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in Middleburgh in 1821. Father Edward Pinder born in county in 1802, died in 1864.
- Posson Lewis W.**, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 200 acres, born in county in 1831; wife Miss Hill, of county, married in 1855; died in 1868; children three; second wife Elizabeth Weidman, of county, married in 1871; children three. Father Peter W. Posson.
- Posson Peter W.**, p o Middleburgh, born in county October 2, 1798; wife Polly, daughter of Captain Philip Bartholomew, born in 1801, married in 1823; children nine—three sons and six daughters. Grandfather Mr. Posson, born in Germany, settled in county before the Revolution. Philip Bartholomew and brother John, came to this country with General Lafayette, served in the Revolution, and afterwards settled in Schoharie county.
- Richtmyer Barney W.**, p o Middleburgh, retired carpenter, 16 acres, born in Middleburgh in 1817; wife Mary A. Bouck, of county, born in 1827, married in 1845. Father Christian Richtmyer.
- Rickard Charles V.**, p o Hunter's Land, miller, born in county in 1854; wife Hattie Crosby, of county, married in 1877; children three. Brother John J., born in 1861. Father John W. Rickard of county. The mill now conducted by Rickard Brothers, was rebuilt in 1865, by David Ding, purchased in 1872, by John W. Rickard, who run it six years, and then taken by Rickard Bros. It is known as one of the best custom flouring mills in the county, and is located on Little Schoharie creek.
- Rickard Albert**, p o Middleburgh, 175 acres, born in county in 1822, has been excise commissioner; wife Helen Bouck, of county, married in 1860; children three. Parents Peter and Nancy Rickard, of county. Grandfather George Rickard of county.
- Rivenburgh L. S.**, p o Middleburgh, born in Albany county in 1830, settled in county in 1849; wife Frances M. Scutt, of county, married in 1870; children one—Marvin. Firm of Scutt & Rivenburgh, dealers in ready made clothing.
- Rorick W. H.**, p o Middleburgh, farmer and hop grower, 30 acres, born in Schoharie, December 7, 1822; wife Ellen Lawyer of Middleburgh, married September 13, 1849; children four.
- Rossman Dr. J.**, p o Middleburgh, physician and surgeon, born in Fulton in 1817, was graduated from the University of Philadelphia, commenced practicing in Middleburgh in 1868; wife Mary Bouck, of county, born in 1818, married in 1868, died in 1877; children three.
- Rouck William H.**, p o Middleburgh, 20 acres, born in county in 1822; wife Ellen Lawyer, of county, born in 1825, married in 1841; children four—Marcus B., Lizzie M., Alexander B., and Dow W. Grandparents settled in county during the French and English war, and were noted for their remarkable age.
- Schermerhorn Frank D.**, p o Middleburgh, general grocer, born in county in 1812; wife Christina Becker, of county, married February 1, 1848. Father William H. Schermerhorn.
- Scribner John M.**, born in Vermont in 1805, settled in county in 1837, was graduated from Union College in 1823, New Brunswick, N. J., in 1837, and died December 20, 1880; wife Anna Swart, p o Middleburgh, born in county in 1807, married in 1837; children three—John M., born in 1839, Margaret I., and Kate M., now Mrs. Dunn.
- Seeley Lyman**, p o Middleburgh, gate tender, born in Connecticut July 3, 1791, settled in county in 1850; wife Elizabeth Whitney of county, born in 1806, married in 1828, died in 1871.
- Sheldon Carr**, p o Middleburgh, carpenter and builder, born in Albany county in 1825, settled in county in 1856; wife Cornelia R. West, born in Albany county in 1823, married in 1852; children four—Hattie B., Theodore C., Anna B., and Jennie C. Father Milton Sheldon, of Albany county, settled in county, died April 10, 1881; wife Harriett Simpson, born in 1801, married in 1823, died in 1880. Lucius West, father of Mrs. Sheldon, born in Albany county in 1801, settled in county in 1871, died in 1880; wife Malinda Townsend, of Albany county, born in 1817.
- Simkins George**, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 185 acres, born in Albany county in 1837, settled in county in same year; wife Anna M. Shoefelt, of county, born in 1810, married in 1839; children nine. Father Nelson Simkins, of Lewis county, settled in county in 1837, died in 1878.
- Smith Amos M.**, p o Middleburgh, wagon manufacturer, born in county in 1819; wife Lucy M. Herick, of county, born in 1823, married in 1840; children three—George W., born in 1841, Charles C. in 1845, and Anna M. in 1843. The sons enlisted at the first call in 1861, served through the Rebellion and were discharged at close of war. Father Zedediah Smith, born in Connecticut in 1791, died in Schoharie county in 1876.
- Snyder Adam, Jr.**, p o Hunter's Land, merchant and blacksmith, born in France in 1811, settled in county in 1840, senior member of the firm A. Snyder & Sons, general merchants, dealing in dry goods, groceries, hardware, also carrying on general blacksmithing, repairing clocks and watches, and agent for the Meadow King Mower and the Gregg Reape.
- Snyder Dr. Hadley**, p o Middleburgh, dental surgeon, born in Herkimer county in 1831, settled in county in 1851, has been supervisor; wife Cornelia Irwin, of county, born in 1839, married in 1858; children one—Florence L. Father Dr. Abraham Snyder, of Herkimer county, died in 1854, was one of the prominent physicians of county.
- Snyder Abraham**, p o Middleburgh, retired gentleman, born in Middleburgh December 4, 1818; wife Marietta Longenholt, of Otsego county, born February 23, 1821, married in September, 1845. Father Nicholas Snyder, of county, farmer, died in 1842 aged 64 years; wife Ann Ackerson, of county, died in 1879 aged 80 years; children living six.
- Soner John**, p o Middleburgh, general cabinet and furniture dealer and undertaker, born in Germany in 1806, settled in county in 1852, commenced business in 1865, has been town clerk; wife Nancy Richtmyer, of county, married in 1872; children two—Lizzie, and J. Elliott.

Stalker Jonathan, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 70 acres, born in Albany county in 1826, settled in county in 1845; wife Amanda Worrick, of county, born in 1830, married in 1849; children three, sons. Father William Stalker, of Albany county.

Stanton Abraham L., p o Middleburgh, retired gentleman, born in Middleburgh in 1824; wife Sabina M., daughter of Joseph and Charity Bouck, born in 1821, married in 1845, died in 1880; children three—William B. Howard M., and Freeman J. Parents Freeman and Maria Lawyer Stanton.

Straub Frank X., p o Middleburgh, barber, born in Germany in 1847, settled in county in 1868; wife Ennverett Gurnsey, born in county, married in 1869; children three. Father Michael Straub.

Swart P. Z., farmer, born in Middleburgh in 1812, died in August, 1839; wife Ruth N. Manning, of county, born in 1811, married in 1840; children two, living one—Hezekiah M., born in 1841; wife Lottie Benton, of Rensselaer county, born in 1845, married in 1867; children four—Fannie B., Maggie, George P., and Perry Z. Father Peter Swart, born and died in county. Grandfather Cornelius, son of Thomas I. Swart, who settled in county during the Revolution.

Thorne W. E., p o Middleburgh.

Turner Amos, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 200 acres, born in county in 1835; wife Rhoda Mickle, of county, born in 1811, married in 1860; children two. Father, James Turner, of county, born in 1795, died in 1861; wife Salinda Loyd, of Albany county, born in 1801, married in 1820, died in 1879. Grandfather James Turner, of Connecticut.

Turner Loren, p o Middleburgh, 75 acres, born in county in 1831; wife Almira Barber, daughter of Joshua, married in 1860; children two. Father James Turner.

VanAuken Edward, p o Middleburgh, retired farmer and harness-maker, 160 acres, born in Albany county in 1831, settled in county in 1831; wife Maria Bouck, of county, born in 1816, married in 1835; children seven.

VanBuren John, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 115 acres, born in county in 1851. Father Daniel VanBuren, of Albany county, born in 1803, came to county in 1844, died in 1860; wife Rebecca VanZandt, of Albany county, died in 1813; children four; second wife Catharine Wormer, of county, born in 1813, married in 1852; children two—John and Mary.

VanVolkenburg E. P., p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in Greene county in 1842; wife Hattie M. VanVolkenburg, married in 1865; children four—Hattie, Iretus, Willie and Samuel J. Tilden. Father Nelson VanVolkenburg, of Greene county.

Vroman Jacob, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 136 acres, born in Middleburgh in 1819; wife Rebecca Mattice, of county, born in 1853, married in 1874; children four. Father Daniel D. Vroman, born in Otsego county in 1807, died in 1868.

Vroman H. A., p o Middleburgh, farmer and retired merchant, born in Fulton in 1828; wife Mary Vroman of county, married in 1860; children three. Father Ephraim Vroman.

Vroman Dow F., p o Middleburgh, farmer, 60 acres, born in county in 1831, has been collector of town; wife Margaret, daughter of H. Smith, born in 1825, married in 1854, children nine. Tunis Vroman settled on the place now called Vromansland, in 1713, owning 1100 acres.

Watson Chancey, p o Middleburgh, retired merchant, 300 acres, born in Middleburgh in 1816, has been Justice of Peace; wife Harriet A. Tyler, of county, married in 1842; children three—Frances Caroline, Arthur E., and Helen E. Father Harvey Watson, of Albany county.

Wells Dr. H. D., p o Middleburgh, physician and surgeon, born in Middleburgh in 1829; wife Margaret Snyder, of Herkimer county, married in 1858. Father Samuel D. Wells, physician and surgeon, born in Middletown, Connecticut, in 1791, settled in county in 1820, died in 1870.

Wheeler John D., physician and surgeon, born in county in 1834, died in 1879, was supervisor; wife Axie A. Griggs, of county, born in 1828, married in 1858; children two—Della M., and George B.

White Charles A., p o Middleburgh, retired gentleman, born in Albany county in 1841, settled in county in 1846; wife Jennie Bouck, of county, born in 1846, married in 1870; children two. Father settled in county in 1841, and died there.

Williams Osee, p o Middleburgh, 125 acres, born in county in 1835; wife Delia Thorn, of county, died in 1870, children one—Casey; second wife, Elizabeth Thorn, married in 1871. Father David Williams, of county.

Winegar Reuben S., p o Middleburgh, farmer, born in county in 1810; wife Josephene Effner, of county, born in 1851, married in 1871; children one—Chancey W. Father Eliakin Winegar, born in Otsego county in 1812, settled in county in 1831; wife Eliza Hadom, of Columbia county, married in 1837; children three.

Yanson David, p o Middleburgh, retired farmer, 80 acres, born in county, February 26, 1798. Niece Elizabeth M. Mattice, daughter of Lawrence, was born in county in 1830. Father John Yanson, born in county in 1754, died January 21, 1836; wife Margaret Yanson, of county, died in 1851; children eight, living one—David.

Young J. E., p o Middleburgh.

Zeh David, p o Middleburgh, farmer, 70 acres, born in Middleburgh in 1817, has held several town offices; wife Lany Ann, daughter of Philip Bird, of county, married in 1838; children two—George, and Marvin. Father George Zeh, of county.

Zeh John, p o Middleburgh, keeper of poor-house, born in county in 1860; wife Martha W. Pitcher of county, married in 1880.

RICHMONDVILLE.

Atkins Jeremiah E., p o Richmondville, farmer, 110 acres, born in Ulster county, September 8, 1804, settled in county in 1806; first wife Gettie Moot; second, Elizabeth Babcock; children three—Dr. Edward B., Warren J., and Mary. Father Edward Atkins, was one of early settlers.

Babcock Nathan, p o Warnerville, retired farmer, 103 acres, born in Albany county, June 22, 1811, settled in county in 1867, has been assessor; wife Lois A. Thurber, of Westford, Otsego county, married in 1842; children two—Jackson, and George. Parents Robert and Sally Babcock.

Biret John C., p o Richmondville, blacksmith, born in Bavaria, October 22, 1811, settled in county in 1852; wife Sarah C. Guild, married in 1867; children five, Parents John Henry and Catharine M. Biret.

Boies E. Willard, p o Warnerville, physician and surgeon. Read medicine with father, Dr. Eli Boies, attended lectures in Albany Medical College, and Castleton Medical College, of Vermont, from which he was graduated in 1855, owns 230 acres land, born in Jefferson, June 7, 1829, settled in village April 13, 1854, has been justice of peace, justice of sessions, and member of Republican county committee; wife Margaret E. Kniskern, married March 5, 1858; children three.

Boorn Lester G., p o Richmondville, manufacturer of a clothes dryer, owns $\frac{1}{2}$ acre land, born in Decatur, Otsego county, November 5, 1829, settled in county in 1841, has been railroad commissioner; wife Susan Hitchcock, of Westchester county, married March 22, 1858; children three—Albert L., John B., and Amos F.

Bradley Milo N., p o Richmondville, manufacturer, born in Richmondville, April 15, 1845; wife Lois, daughter of John Rossmann, of town, married in 1868. Father Milo Bradley, came from Otsego county, commenced business at Barneyville about 1814, was son of Azariah Bradley, of Connecticut.

Burneson James N., p o Richmondville, proprietor of West-over House, born in Worcester, Otsego county, February 12, 1826, has been deputy sheriff, town clerk, and assessor; wife Jerusha E. Douglass, of Montgomery county, married September 17, 1854; children four—Irring J., Robert Arthur, G. Willard, and Sarah E. Father Andrew Burneson.

Butler Samuel, p o Richmondville, farmer 330 acres, born on present farm July 14, 1820, has been supervisor and assessor; wife Cynthia Lacy, of Greene county, married in 1851; children six. Father Moses, son of Samuel Butler, who settled and died on same farm.

PERSONAL STATISTICS.

xvii

- Chase Jared**, p o Warnerville, farmer and physician and surgeon, 48 acres, born in Otsego county in 1817, settled in town and commenced practice of medicine in Seward, in 1847, and settled in Warnerville in 1854, has been supervisor; first wife Matilda Langley, of Otsego county; second wife Sarah Perkins, of Massachusetts; children living two—George W., and J. Alberto. Parents Jared and Harriet Chase.
- Conro George W.**, p o Richmondville, farmer, 167 acres, born in Summit, December 2, 1847, settled on present farm in 1872; wife Ellen J., daughter of Samuel Near, married in 1871; children two—Lula M., and Willis A. Parents Peter and Esther M. Conro.
- Couchman Page B.**, p o Richmondville, manufacturer of agricultural implements, born in Broome, March 16, 1833, settled in town in February 1880. Father Hiram was son of Philip and grandson of Henry Couchman, one of the earliest settlers of county.
- Couchman Wesley**, p o Richmondville, manufacturer of agricultural implements, born in Margarettsville Delaware county, August 25, 1833, settled in town in April, 1881. Father Milo, son of Henry Couchman.
- DeGraff William S.**, p o Richmondville, farmer, born in Schenectady county March 5, 1814, settled in county in 1845, wife Maria, daughter of Thomas Wright, of Sharon, married December 9, 1845; children living five. Father Nicholas DeGraff.
- DeGraff John N.**, p o Richmondville, county superintendent of poor, owns 123 acres, born in Richmondville July 20, 1818; wife Jane Bates of town, married in January, 1836; children one—Lucinda A. Zeh. Father Nicholas DeGraff.
- Dennis John H.**, p o Richmondville, farmer, 83 acres, born in Jefferson, October 13, 1836, settled in town in 1847; wife Mary Zeh, married March 22, 1840; children two—Nancy and Mary E. Mother Hannah Dennis.
- Dox Gilbert M.**, p o Richmondville, farmer, 150 acres, born in Richmondville on present farm, January 21, 1822, has been justice twenty years, and assessor; wife Sarah A. Atkins, married in 1841; children living three. Father, Michael Dox, settled on farm about 1815, one of first settlers in town.
- Dox Luther**, p o Richmondville, farmer and saw-mill proprietor, 81 acres, born on present farm in 1826, has been highway commissioner and constable; wife Melissa Spaulding, married in 1858; children two—Sylvia A. and Verda M. Father, David, son of Michael Dox. Farm has been in family about sixty years.
- Felter Abram H.**, p o Richmondville, farmer and lumberman, 71 acres, born in North Blochmin November 6, 1834, settled in town in 1859, has been overseer of poor and highway commissioner; wife Isabel Sheldine, of Jefferson, married July 4, 1856; children four. Father, Matthew Felter.
- Foland Philip O.**, p o Cobleskill, farmer, 280 acres, born on present farm February 15, 1839, has been highway commissioner; wife Sarah E. Ostrander, married in 1853; children one—Alice. Father, Henry, was son of Philip Foland, the first settler on farm.
- Fox Jeremiah**, p o Richmondville, hop, grain, and dairy farmer, 104 acres, born in Summit May 30, 1831, settled in town April 1, 1866; wife Lovilla Snook; second wife Celestia Dibble; children three—Allie, Sattie, and Elsie. Parents, George and Sarah Fox.
- Fox J. Angle**, p o Richmondville, farmer, 81 acres, born in Richmondville October 11, 1817; wife Rebecca, daughter of Joshua Cross, married in 1849; children three—Eliza M., Lucia, and Willis G. Father, John Fox, settled in town about 1793.
- Frazier George L.**, p o Richmondville, farmer 53 acres, born on present farm February 16, 1823, has been assessor and commissioner; wife Catharine Zeh, of town, married in 1850; children one—Hattie. Parents, John and Nancy Frazier.
- Frasier A. D.**, p o Richmondville, dealer in general merchandise, born in town July 31, 1814, has been town clerk; wife Alida Sheldon, of town, married in 1872; children two—Claude H. and Edith A. Father, Hiram Frazier, has been in business twenty-eight years.
- Gale Henry S.**, p o Warnerville, physician and surgeon, born in Richmond county January 18, 1819, read medicine with Dr. J. N. Spencer, commenced practice in 1866, attended lectures at the University of Philadelphia, in 1868 and 1873 settled in county in Fulton in 1871, and commenced practice of medicine in Warnerville in April, 1881; wife Celia Newman, born in 1832, married August 26, 1870; children four.
- Gordon Julius B.**, p o Richmondville, farmer, 115 acres, born in town September 30, 1841; wife Caroline, daughter of Hiram Borst, of Cobleskill, married in 1870. Father, Phoenix C., son of David Gordon.
- Hartwell Gibson**, p o Richmondville, farmer and retired merchant, born in Otsego county December 28, 1817, settled in county in 1845 has been supervisor, assessor and collector; wife Elvira Johnson, of Otsego county; second wife Sophrona Johnson, of Schoharie county; children living, two—Emma and Carrie Chambers. Parents, Joseph and Betsy Hartwell.
- Hartwell Sophrona**, p o Richmondville, owns 51 acres, born in Summit November 4, 1827, settled in town in February, 1859; first husband James M. Johnson, married December 18, 1849; second husband Gibson Hartwell, of Otsego county, married December 25, 1854; children living, two—Mary L. Morgan and Adella Johnson.
- Holmes Harvey**, p o Richmondville, farmer, 220 acres, born in Fulton December 8, 1829, settled on present farm in 1841; wife Hannah E., daughter of Jeremiah Cross, married in 1849; children two—Austin C. and William S. Father, William Holmes, one of first settlers of Fulton.
- Holmes William J.**, p o Cobleskill, farmer, 300 acres, born in Fulton March 13, 1830, settled in town in 1851, has been collector, highway commissioner and excise commissioner; wife Maria J. Pattinger, of Esperance, married in 1853; children seven. Parents, James and Hannah S. Holmes, the former of Schoharie, and the latter of Columbia county.
- Harroway James**, p o Richmondville, station and express agent, 40 acres, born in Richmondville, August 30, 1829, has been supervisor, presidential elector and railroad commissioner; wife Maria, daughter of John Warner, married in November, 1841; children three—Elias J., Melvin W., and Elizabeth Ostrander. Father Elias Harroway, of Connecticut, settled in town in April, 1824.
- Holmes John**, p o Richmondville, dealer in general merchandise, born in Fulton, October 6, 1836, settled in town in 1855, has been overseer of poor two years; wife Jane A. Drew, of Rensselaer county, married in 1857; children living two—Rosa, and John D. Father William was son of James Holmes a native of New Jersey.
- Isham Charles**, p o West Richmondville, saw-mill proprietor, and farmer, 160 acres, born in Seward, October 14, 1821 settled in town in 1856, is postmaster; wife Mary, daughter of John Foster, of Richmondville, married in 1851; children two—Mary and Frances. Father Benjamin Isham of Connecticut, settled in town about 1812, and was son of John Isham.
- Jones Rev. LeGrand**, p o Richmondville, pastor of M. E. church, born in Fultonville, Montgomery county, November 27, 1815, settled in county in same year, enlisted in Company I, 13th Regt N. Y. Vols., as private, was promoted to First Lieutenant, commenced preaching at Quaker St., in 1842, ordained Elder in 1846, and came to present charge in 1880; wife Martha Brazee, of Franklinton, married March 18, 1846; children two.
- Jones George**, p o West Richmondville, farmer 88 acres, born in Fulton, September 12, 1819, settled in town in April, 1853, has been justice of peace; wife Carrie, daughter of Chauncey Beird, of Jefferson, married July 1, 1867; children one—Chauncey. Father Stephen S. Jones, of Albany county, one of first settlers in Fulton, grandfather George Rossman, also an early settler in Fulton.
- Joslyn Daniel R.**, p o Richmondville, farmer 126 acres, born in Albany county, September 4, 1810, settled in county in 1834, has been highway commissioner of town; wife Abigail N., daughter of Edward and Susan Kinnicutt, married November 29, 1842; children living six. Parents Richard and Margaret Joslyn.
- Kling Francis**, p o Cobleskill, farmer and owner of stone quarry, 126 acres, born in Sharon, December 25, 1818, settled on present farm in 1854, has been overseer of poor; wife Mary E. Foland, married in 1842; children three—Margaret, Harriet, and George H. Father John G. Kling.
- LaMont William T.**, p o Richmondville, dealer in flour, feed, and groceries, born in Charlottesville, November 27, 1830, settled in town in 1859, has been supervisor; wife Mary Rogers, of Massachusetts, daughter of Rev. Aaron Rogers of the N. Y. Conference, married in September, 1859; children three—Ella, Wilbur F., and W. Stanley. Father Thomas W., was son of William LaMont, Jr.

- Mann Henry, Jr.**, p o Warnerville, resident, 54 acres, born in Warnerville, February 20, 1803, has been sheriff; wife Ann Eliza Mann, of town, married in 1822; children one—Helen M. Segar. Father Peter G. Mann, was one of early settlers in town.
- Mann George L.**, p o Warnerville, farmer, 213 acres, born on present farm, August 6, 1829; has been collector and overseer of poor; wife Nancy Catharine, daughter of Abram D. Lawyer, married in January, 1833; children living two—Celia and Veda. Father Henry Mann, settled on farm at an early day.
- Mann James H.**, p o Richmondville, farmer, born in Richmondville. Father Peter H. Mann, was son of John Mann, one of first settlers of town.
- Mann George H.**, p o Richmondville, farmer and saw-mill proprietor, 62 acres, born on present farm March 30, 1822; wife Lovina Mucky, of Blochheim, married in 1841; children one—Aviazo. Father John Mann.
- Mann Egbert**, p o Richmondville, commercial agent, born in Richmondville, November 12, 1837; wife Amelia Lawyer, married in February, 1863; children one—Alida. Father Abraham was son of Colonel Peter G. Mann.
- Mann Isaac**, p o Richmondville, civil engineer and surveyor, born in Richmondville, April 13, 1815, has been Superintendent of schools, inspector of elections, overseer of poor, highway commissioner, and notary public; wife Elizabeth Atkins, married January 27, 1842; children living five. Father Colonel Peter G. Mann.
- Mann Tobias**, p o Richmondville, farmer, 130 acres, born in Richmondville, October 2, 1818, has been supervisor; wife Juliana Pitcher, of Middleburgh, married May 30, 1838; children three—Sylvester N., Philip, and Nancy E. Bartlett. Father Philip, son of George Mann.
- McDonald Sylvester**, p o Warnerville, farmer and assessor, 16 acres; born in Richmondville, March 20, 1825, settled on farm in 1863; wife Louisa Gorse, of Fulton, married October 2, 1850; children two—Willis and Arthur. Father Robert was son of John McDonald, who came to town June 1, 1759, and died there.
- Mickel Tobias**, p o Warnerville, farmer and saw-mill proprietor, 218 acres, born in Cobleskill, July 7, 1829, settled on present farm in 1848; wife Amelia Waldorf, of town; children five. Parents George and Catharine Mickel. Grandfathers Andrew Mickel and Philip Foland, were early settlers in Richmondville.
- Moore John E.**, p o Richmondville, farmer, 50 acres, born in Chester, Hamden county, Mass., in 1809, settled in county March 18, 1819, has been census enumerator, justice of sessions, and inspector of schools; wife Mary Draper, of town, married March 27, 1831; children living three—Oliver A., Celia B. Cole, and Elizabeth Kellogg.
- Moot Fred**, p o Richmondville, farmer, 207 acres, born in Summit, April 15, 1831, settled in town in 1856, has been supervisor; wife Mary Rider, of Summit, married in 1855. Father Henry Moot, was son of Frederick, one of first settlers of Summit.
- Moot James H.**, p o Richmondville, hop grower and grain farmer, 156 acres, born in Summit, March 21, 1828, settled on present farm in 1868; wife Catharine Wharton, of Summit, married in 1850; children three, living two—Silas H., Flora A., and Albert (deceased). Father Henry Moot.
- Olendorf Alfred M.**, p o Richmondville, owner of planing mill and sash and blind factory, born in Otsego county in 1822, settled in county in 1862, owns 129 acres land; wife Alice Rogers, married in 1862; children five—Florence E., Julia M., Margaret E., Carrie, and Elith. Father Jacob Olendorf.
- Olmstead J. B.**, p o Richmondville, editor *Democrat*.
- Ostrander George W.**, p o Richmondville, dealer in drugs and hardware, born in Summit, October 26, 1857, settled in town in 1851; wife Libbie, daughter of James Harroway, married November 28, 1867. Father Levi, was son of Hubbard Ostrander, who settled in county about 1810.
- Ostrom Joshua T.**, p o Richmondville, farmer, 75 acres, born in Albany county, February 10, 1801, settled in county in 1820, has been highway commissioner; wife Polly M. Fuller, married January 10, 1827, died February 6, 1870; children living four—George L., Elijah T., Warren W., and Adelaide Babcock. Parents John and Sarah (Tompkins) Ostrom.
- Paul Rev. J. S.**, p o Richmondville, pastor of Lutheran church, born in Easton, Pa., November 9, 1817, settled in county August 22, 1877, licensed to preach in June, 1876, and ordained in June, 1877, educated at Hartwick Seminary, Otsego county; wife Carrie Reimel, of Johnsville, Pa., born July 29, 1854, married March 16, 1872.
- Poason Henry**, p o Warnerville, farmer, 90 acres, born in Wright, October 11, 1812, settled in town in 1870; first wife Jauette Forsyth; second wife Rosanna Young; third wife Aceneth Crippen; children five. Father, Peter, was son of Peter P. Poason, of Rhinebeck.
- Rockefeller William**, p o Richmondville, speculator and farmer, 50 acres, born in Germantown, Columbia county, in 1811, settled in county in 1812; wife Eliza Foland, of Cobleskill, born in 1808, married in 1830; children living, one—Catharine C. Reightmeyer. Parents, John and Sally Rockefeller, of Germantown.
- Rogers Benjamin C.**, p o Richmondville, farmer and horticulturist, 21 acres, born in Richmond May 1, 1834, settled in village in 1855, has been justice; first wife Mary Pixley; second wife Cornelia Fuller; children three—Joseph E., George W. and Mary L. Father, Elisha F. Rogers.
- Shafer Peter M.**, p o Warnerville, drover and cattle dealer, born in village July 20, 1819, has been overseer of poor, assessor, and excise commissioner; wife Lydia Van Dreeser; second wife Hannah E. Houck; children living, seven. Parents, David and Eva Shafer.
- Shafer Henry A.**, p o Warnerville, farmer, 287 acres, born on present farm May 30, 1804; wife Elizabeth, daughter of Joan Joe Shafer, married in 1829; children living, eight. Father, Henry Shafer, Jr., was first settler on farm in 1797.
- Shafer Gideon N.**, p o Richmondville, blacksmith and farmer, 81 acres, born in town February 4, 1836, settled on farm in 1857; wife Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Haverly, of Albany county, married in 1856; children three—Sanford G., Emanuel, and Nela M. Father, Henry A. Shafer.
- Sheldon Philip W.**, p o Richmondville, insurance agent, born in Seward September 1, 1833, settled in town in 1848; wife Anna C., daughter of Stephen Osborn, married February 13, 1863. Father, William, son of John Sheldon, who came from Schenectady.
- Slater Erastus W.**, p o Richmondville, farmer, 5 acres, born in Schoharie April 6, 1829, settled in town in 1831, has been assessor; wife Hannah Nipe, married in 1834; children three—Ellen, Mary, and Thomas. Parents, William and Hannah Slater.
- Smith Enonds W.**, p o Richmondville, commercial agent, born in Wilton, Maine, May 2, 1853, settled in county September 11, 1880; wife Ettie, daughter of Peter and Sally Boughton, married in 1874; children two—Spencer E., and Freddie J. Father, William B. Smith.
- Smith Andrew**, p o West Richmondville, farmer, 180 acres, born in Richmondville in 1817; wife Lucinda Mosier, of Schenectady county, married in 1844; children one—John A. Father, John Smith, native of Albany, was soldier in war of 1812, and first settler on farm.
- Snyder Edward L.**, p o Richmondville, attorney and counselor, born in Columbia county June 19, 1839, settled in county January 6, 1869, has been justice of peace and justice of sessions, was graduated at Union College in 1861, and admitted to practice May 5, 1864; wife Estella Decker, married November 12, 1867; children one—Byron W.
- Spencer Nirum**, p o West Fulton, farmer and painter, born in town February 18, 1811, has been town clerk and collector; wife Abigail C. Fellows, married in 1863; children five. Parents, Ambrose and Hannah Spencer. Farm has been in family about forty-five years.
- Stevens Ambrose B.**, p o Richmondville, machinist, born in Durham, Greene county, in 1857, settled in county in 1882; wife Martha A. Ballard, of Williamstown, Otsego county, married in 1861; children one, adopted—Matie L. Father, Obediah Stevens, of Dutchess county.
- Sutphen Michael**, p o Richmondville, farmer, 110 acres, born in Seward July 8, 1836, settled in town in 1849; wife Emeline Rechmire, married in 1847; children nine. Father, Joseph, son of Richard Sutphen, a soldier of the Revolution.
- Swain John I.**, p o Richmondville, farmer, 70 acres, born in Greenbush July 8, 1828, settled in county in 1835, has been assessor; wife Jane Van Alstine. Parents, Isaac and Hannah Swain.
- Tanner James**, p o No 362 Ninth street, Brooklyn, tax collector of Brooklyn, born in Richmondville April 4, 1844, read law with Judge William C. LaMont in 1866, was admitted in 1869, elected commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, was deputy collector of port of New York. Soldiers Home at Bath was built through his instrumentality. Wife Meriah White, married November 17, 1866; children four.

Terrel Stephen A., p o West Richmondville, hop and dairy farmer, born in Richmondville September 12, 1845; wife Florence J. Smith, of town, married in July, 1869; children one—Edith L. Parents, Samuel E. and Julia A. Terrel.

Van Patten Nicholas H., p o Richmondville, hop and dairy farmer, 118 acres, born in Richmondville October 8, 1834; wife Selina Marson, of Summit, married January 12, 1862; children seven. Parents, James and Sarah Van Patten, the former a native of Albany county, was one of early settlers of town in 1833.

Walker James H., p o Cobleskill, farmer and wagon manufacturer, 80 acres, born in present town May 30, 1841; wife Jemima Clute, of Saratoga county, married in 1865; children six. Parents, Samuel and Rhoda M. Walker.

Warner Sylvester, p o Warnerville, farmer and saw-mill proprietor, 160 acres, born on present farm January 26, 1811; wife Adaline Hollenbeck, of Gilboa, married March 27, 1839; children one—Marcus D., born January 4, 1850. Father, Jacob D., son of David Warner.

Warner James, p o Warnerville, farmer and owner of saw-mill with Sylvester, 100 acres, born in town April 3, 1831, has been supervisor; wife Adaline Becker, of Wright, married January 23, 1863; children one—Kittie. Parents Marcus and Katie Warner.

Warner Tobias B., p o Richmondville, photographer, born in Richmondville October 11, 1837, settled in village in 1865; wife Lizzie Palmer, of Albany county, married January 9, 1859; children one—Arthur T. Father, Peter, was son of George Warner, the first settler of town.

Warner Tobias L., p o Warnerville, farmer, born in town June 27, 1820, was first excise commissioner of town; wife Jennie Mann, married in October, 1855; children one—Kate H. Father, Jacob D., son of David, the son of George Warner.

Westover Hon. John, p o Richmondville, farmer and dealer in real estate, 600 acres, born in Berkshire county Massachusetts, July 8, 1797, settled in county in 1808, has been justice, member of assembly, supervisor, and judge of Court of Common Pleas, also president of Bank of Richmondville; wife Catharine Miles, of Schoharie, married in 1832.

Woods Henry, p o Richmondville, machinist, of firm of Stevens & Woods, born in Gilboa, was highway commissioner in 1861, and built the iron bridge then; wife Nancy, daughter of Henry Warner, of town, married in 1851. Father, William Woods.

Zeh Thomas W., p o Richmondville, butcher, born in Richmondville August 19, 1829, has been town clerk; wife Calphurnia Groat, married in January, 1854; children living, two—Thomas and Maggie. Father, Chrisjohn, was son of David Zeh, the Revolutionary soldier.

Zeh Thomas W., p o Richmondville, dealer in boots, shoes, and groceries, born in Richmondville March 26, 1830, has been supervisor, county clerk, and justice of the peace; wife Lucinda A. DeGraff, married in 1859; children three—Jennie, John, and Bonnie. Father, John, son of David Zeh.

SEWARD.

Borst Smith, p o Seward.

Bruce E. O., p o Hyndsville, physician.

Defandorf L. M., p o Hyndsville, farmer.

Empie Benjamin, p o Sharon.

Empie P. G., p o Hyndsville, farmer.

Eldredge Edward G., p o Sharon Hill.

France Gilbert G., p o Seward.

France William G., p o Seward.

Hallenbeck Abram H., p o Hyndsville.

Hagadorn James, p o Seward.

Houck W., p o Hyndsville.

Hynds O., p o Hyndsville.

Klock Sylvester, p o Hyndsville.

Kromer Harrison, p o Cobleskill.

Lain Isaac W., p o Seward.

Letts Chester, p o Cobleskill.

Loucks Henry, p o Sharon Hill.

Markle Lawyer S., p o Hyndsville, hotel proprietor.

Marcey David, p o Hyndsville.

Marcey Frederick, p o Hyndsville.

Marcey William H., p o Hyndsville.

Mosher Edgar, p o Hyndsville.

Murcey Tobias, p o Cobleskill.

Myers John A., p o Hyndsville.

Olmsted Albert, p o Cobleskill.

Osterhout D. H., p o Cobleskill.

Ottman B. E., p o Seward.

Ottman P., p o Lawyersville.

Preston J. E., p o Seward, station agent.

Rowley A. W., p o Hyndsville.

Sexton Hiram, p o Hyndsville.

Smith Andrew, p o Seward.

Strail Henry, p o Seward.

Vandewerker David, p o Seward.

Van Dusen Charles, p o Seward Station.

Warner Henry A., p o Seward, miller.

Wingard Albert, p o Seward, miller.

Wright Bros., p o Seward Valley.

Young Adam, p o Hyndsville.

Young Peter, p o Lawyersville.

Young Menzo, farmer.

SCHOHARIE.

Bailey Charles, p o Schoharie.

Barley Martin D., p o Schoharie.

Barton Theodore, p o Shutter's Corners, farmer and stock dealer, 700 acres, born in Washington, Dutchess county, October 1, 1795, settled in county February 12, 1818, has been sheriff, supervisor, and assessor; wife Rebecca, German, of Stamford, born in 1798, married in 1818; children four—Josiah, born in 1822, Mary A., in 1831, Lucretia in 1833, and Emmett, in 1842.

Becker Myron H., p o Central Bridge, general merchant, owns store, born in Schoharie county in 1854, established in business at Central Bridge in 1878; wife Lydia, Bloomingdale, of Albany county, married in 1877.

Bellinger Alexander, p o East Cobleskill, farmer, 116 acres, born in county in 1828; wife Dolly Livingston, married in 1851; children five. Father John N. Bellinger, of Middleburgh, born in 1789, died in 1871, farmer; wife Maria Schell, of county, died in 1833; children six. Grandfather was a Revolutionary soldier.

Bergh Peter S., p o Schoharie, farmer and merchant, born in county in 1812, has been assessor, and railroad commissioner; wife Amelia Dietz, of county, married in 1850. Father David Bergh, born in 1795, died in August, 1879, farmer. Grandfather Abraham Bergh, was a Revolutionary soldier.

Bombeck John, p o Central Bridge.

Bouck David L., p o Schoharie, farmer, 175 acres, born in county in 1812, has been commissioner; wife Delia M. Kilmer, born in 1816, married September 3, 1863; children one—John D., born in 1866. Father John D. Bouck, born in Middleburgh, in 1812, died February 12, 1885; wife Maria E. Augel, born in 1815, died in 1880; children three.

Brown Albert, p o Schoharie, dealer in hay and straw, born in Albany county in 1822, settled in county in 1847; wife Fidelia T. North, of Delaware county, married in 1841; children three—Helen T., Henry A., and Sarah B.

Borst John, p o Schoharie C. H.

Case D. E., p o Schoharie, dealer in furniture, and undertaker, born in county in 1833; wife Mary Jane Mulford, married in 1854, died in 1876; children one—Jennie N.; second wife Charlott Mayham, married in 1876.

- Mann Henry, Jr.**, p. o Warnerville, resident, 54 acres, born in Warnerville, February 20, 1833, has been sheriff; wife Ann Eliza Mann, of town, married in 1832; children one—Helen M. Segar. Father Peter G. Mann, was one of early settlers in town.
- Mann George L.**, p. o Warnerville, farmer, 213 acres, born on present farm, August 6, 1829; has been collector and overseer of poor; wife Nancy Catharine, daughter of Abram D. Lawyer, married in January, 1853; children living two—Celia and Veda. Father Henry Mann, settled on farm at an early day.
- Mann James H.**, p. o Richmondville, farmer, born in Richmondville. Father Peter H. Mann, was son of John Mann, one of first settlers of town.
- Mann George H.**, p. o Richmondville, farmer and saw-mill proprietor, 62 acres, born on present farm March 30, 1822; wife Lovina Mucky, of Blenheim, married in 1844; children one, Avila zo. Father John Mann.
- Mann Egbert**, p. o Richmondville, commercial agent, born in Richmondville, November 12, 1837; wife Amelia Lawyer, married in February, 1861; children one Ahla. Father Abraham was son of Colonel Peter G. Mann.
- Mann Isaac**, p. o Richmondville, civil engineer and surveyor, born in Richmondville, April 13, 1815, has been Superintendent of schools, inspector of elections, overseer of poor, highway commissioner, and notary public; wife Elizabeth Atkins, married January 27, 1842; children living five. Father Colonel Peter G. Mann.
- Mann Tobias**, p. o Richmondville, farmer, 130 acres, born in Richmondville, October 2, 1818, has been supervisor; wife Juliana Pitcher, of Middleburgh, married May 30, 1843, children three—Sylvester N., Philip, and Nancy E. Bartlett. Father Philip, son of George Mann.
- McDonald Sylvester**, p. o Warnerville, farmer and assessor, 146 acres; born in Richmondville, March 20, 1825, settled on farm in 1863; wife Louisa Gorse, of Fulton, married October 2, 1850, children two—Willis and Arthur. Father Robert was son of John McDonald, who came to town June 1, 1799, and died there.
- Mickel Tobias**, p. o Warnerville, farmer and saw-mill proprietor, 218 acres, born in Cobleskill, July 7, 1829, settled on present farm in 1838; wife Amelia Waldorf, of town; children five. Parents George and Catharine Mickel. Grandfathers Andrew Mickel and Philip Foland, were early settlers in Richmondville.
- Moore John E.**, p. o Richmondville, farmer, 50 acres, born in Chester, Hamden county, Mass., in 1809, settled in county March 18, 1817, has been census enumerator, justice of sessions, and inspector of schools; wife Mary Draper, of town, married March 27, 1831; children living, three—Oliver A., Celia E. Cole, and Elizabeth Kellogg.
- Moot Fred**, p. o Richmondville, farmer, 207 acres, born in Summit, April 15, 1831, settled in town in 1856, has been supervisor; wife Mary Rider, of Summit, married in 1855. Father Henry Moot, was son of Frederick, one of first settlers of Summit.
- Moot James H.**, p. o Richmondville, hop grower and grain farmer, 156 acres, born in Summit, March 21, 1828, settled on present farm in 1868; wife Catharine Wharton, of Summit, married in 1850; children three, living two—Silas H. Flora A., and Albert. (deceased) Father Henry Moot.
- Olendorf Alfred M.**, p. o Richmondville, owner of planing mill and sash and blind factory, born in Otsego county in 1822, settled in county in 1823, owns 129 acres land; wife Alice Rogers, married in 1862; children five—Florence E., Julia M., Margaret E., Carrie, and Edith. Father Jacob Olendorf.
- Olmstead J. B.**, p. o Richmondville, editor *Democrat*.
- Ostrander George W.**, p. o Richmondville, dealer in drugs and hardware, born in Summit, October 26, 1837, settled in town in 1851; wife Libbie, daughter of James Harroway, married November 28, 1867. Father Levi was son of Hubbard Ostrander, who settled in county about 1840.
- Ostrom Joshua T.**, p. o Richmondville, farmer, 75 acres, born in Albany county, February 10, 1801, settled in county in 1820, has been highway commissioner; wife Polly M. Fuller, married January 10, 1827, died February 6, 1870; children living four—George L., Eljah T., Warren W., and Adelaide Babcock. Parents John and Sarah (Toropkins) Ostrom.
- Paul Rev. J. S.**, p. o Richmondville, pastor of Lutheran church, born in Easton, Pa., November 9, 1817, settled in county August 22, 1877, licensed to preach in June, 1876, and ordained in June, 1877, educated at Hartwick Seminary, Otsego county; wife Carrie Reimel, of Johnsville, Pa., born July 29, 1854, married March 16, 1872.
- Posson Henry**, p. o Warnerville, farmer, 90 acres, born in Wright, October 11, 1812, settled in town in 1870; first wife Jeanette Forsyth; second wife Rosanna Young; third wife Aceneth Crippen; children five. Father, Peter, was son of Peter Posson, of Rhinebeck.
- Rockefeller William**, p. o Richmondville, speculator and farmer, 50 acres, born in Germantown, Columbia county, in 1811, settled in county in 1812; wife Eliza Foland, of Cobleskill, born in 1808, married in 1830; children living, one—Catharine C. Keightmeyer. Parents, John and Sally Rockefeller, of Germantown.
- Rogers Benjamin C.**, p. o Richmondville, farmer and horticulturist, 21 acres, born in Richmond May 1, 1834, settled in village in 1855, has been justice; first wife Mary Pixley; second wife Cornelia Fuller; children three—Joseph E., George W. and Mary L. Father, Elisha F. Rogers.
- Shafer Peter M.**, p. o Warnerville, drover and cattle dealer, born in village July 20, 1819, has been overseer of poor, assessor, and excise commissioner; wife Lydia Van Dreeser; second wife Hannah E. Houck; children living, seven. Parents, David and Eva Shafer.
- Shafer Henry A.**, p. o Warnerville, farmer, 287 acres, born on present farm May 30, 1801; wife Elizabeth, daughter of Joan Joe Shafer, married in 1829; children living, eight. Father, Henry Shafer, Jr. was first settler on farm in 1797.
- Shafer Gideon N.**, p. o Richmondville, blacksmith and farmer, 87 acres, born in town February 1, 1836, settled on farm in 1857; wife Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Haverly, of Albany county, married in 1856; children three—Sanford G., Emanuel, and Nela M. Father, Henry A. Shafer.
- Sheldon Philip W.**, p. o Richmondville, insurance agent, born in Seward September 1, 1831, settled in town in 1848; wife Anna C., daughter of Stephen Osborn, married February 13, 1863. Father, William, son of John Sheldon, who came from Schenectady.
- Slater Erastus W.**, p. o Richmondville, farmer, 5 acres, born in Schoharie April 6, 1829, settled in town in 1831, has been assessor; wife Hannah Nipe, married in 1841; children three—Ellen, Mary, and Thomas. Parents, William and Hannah Slater.
- Smith Emonds W.**, p. o Richmondville, commercial agent, born in Wilton, Maine, May 2, 1853, settled in county September 11, 1880; wife Ettie, daughter of Peter and Sally Boughton, married in 1874; children two—Spencer E., and Freddie J. Father, William B. Smith.
- Smith Andrew**, p. o West Richmondville, farmer, 180 acres, born in Richmondville in 1817; wife Lucinda Mosier, of Schenectady county, married in 1844; children one—John A. Father, John Smith, native of Albany, was soldier in war of 1812, and first settler on farm.
- Snyder Edward L.**, p. o Richmondville, attorney and counselor, born in Columbia county June 19, 1839, settled in county January 6, 1869, has been justice of peace and justice of sessions, was graduated at Union College in 1861, and admitted to practice May 5, 1864; wife Estella Decker, married November 12, 1867; children one—Byron W.
- Spencer Niram**, p. o West Fulton, farmer and painter, born in town February 18, 1811, has been town clerk and collector; wife Albina C. Fellows, married in 1865; children five. Parents, Ambrose and Hannah Spencer. Farm has been in family about forty-five years.
- Stevens Ambrose B.**, p. o Richmondville, machinist, born in Durham, Greene county, in 1837, settled in county in 1842; wife Martha A. Ballard, of Williamstown, Oswego county, married in 1861; children one, adopted—Matie L. Father, Obediah Stevens, of Dutchess county.
- Sutphen Michael**, p. o Richmondville, farmer, 110 acres, born in Seward July 8, 1826, settled in town in 1849; wife Elmeline Reclmire, married in 1847; children nine. Father, Joseph, son of Richard Sutphen, a soldier of the Revolution.
- Swain John L.**, p. o Richmondville, farmer, 70 acres, born in Greenbush July 8, 1828, settled in county in 1855, has been assessor; wife Jane Van Alstine. Parents, Isaac and Hannah Swain.
- Tauner James**, p. o N. o. 362 Ninth street, Brooklyn, tax collector of Brooklyn, born in Richmondville April 4, 1844, read law with Judge William C. LaMont in 1866, was admitted in 1869, elected deputy collector of the Grand Army of the Republic, was deputy collector of port of New York. Soldiers Home at Bath was built through his instrumentality. Wife Meroah White, married November 17, 1866; children four.

Terrel Stephen A., p o West Richmondville, hop and dairy farmer, born in Richmondville September 12, 1845; wife Florence J. Smith, of town, married in July, 1869; children one—Edith L. Parents, Samuel E. and Julia A. Terrel.

Van Patten Nicholas H., p o Richmondville, hop and dairy farmer, 118 acres, born in Richmondville October 8, 1838; wife Selina Marson, of Summit, married January 12, 1862; children seven. Parents, James and Sarah Van Patten, the former a native of Albany county, was one of early settlers of town in 1833.

Walker James H., p o Cobleskill, farmer and wagon manufacturer, 80 acres, born in present town May 30, 1841; wife Jemima Clute, of Saratoga county, married in 1865; children six. Parents, Samuel and Rhoda M. Walker.

Warner Sylvester, p o Warnerville, farmer and saw-mill proprietor, 160 acres, born on present farm January 26, 1811; wife Adaline Hollenbeck, of Gilboa, married March 27, 1869; children one—Marcus D., born January 4, 1870. Father, Jacob D., son of David Warner.

Warner James, p o Warnerville, farmer and owner of saw-mill with Sylvester, 100 acres, born in town April 3, 1831, has been supervisor; wife Adaline Becker, of Wright, married January 23, 1862; children one—Kittie. Parents Marcus and Katie Warner.

Warner Tobias B., p o Richmondville, photographer, born in Richmondville October 11, 1837, settled in village in 1865; wife Lizzie Palmer, of Albany county, married January 9, 1859; children one—Arthur T. Father, Peter, was son of George Warner, the first settler of town.

Warner Tobias L., p o Warnerville, farmer, born in town June 27, 1820, was first excise commissioner of town; wife Jennie Mann, married in October, 1856; children one—Kate H. Father, Jacob D., son of David, the son of George Warner.

Westover Hon. John, p o Richmondville, farmer and dealer in real estate, 600 acres, born in Berkshire county Massachusetts, July 8, 1797, settled in county in 1808, has been justice, member of assembly, supervisor, and judge of Court of Common Pleas, also president of Bank of Richmondville; wife Catharine Miles, of Schoharie, married in 1832.

Woods Henry, p o Richmondville, machinists of firm of Stevens & Woods, born in Gilboa, was highway commissioner in 1861, and built the iron bridge then; wife Nancy, daughter of Henry Warner, of town, married in 1851. Father, William Woods.

Zeh Thomas W., p o Richmondville, butcher, born in Richmondville August 19, 1829, has been town clerk; wife Calphurnia Groat, married in January, 1854; children living, two—Thomas and Maggie. Father, Chrisjohn, was son of David Zeh, the Revolutionary soldier.

Zeh Thomas W., p o Richmondville, dealer in boots, shoes, and groceries, born in Richmondville March 26, 1830, has been supervisor, county clerk, and justice of the peace; wife Lucinda A. DeGraff, married in 1856; children three—Jennie, John, and Bonnie. Father, John, son of David Zeh.

SEWARD.

Borst Smith, p o Seward.

Bruce E. O., p o Hyndsville, physician.

Defendorf L. M., p o Hyndsville, farmer.

Empie Benjamin, p o Sharon.

Empie P. G., p o Hyndsville, farmer.

Eldredge Edward G., p o Sharon Hill.

France Gilbert G., p o Seward.

France William G., p o Seward.

Hallenbeck Abram H., p o Hyndsville.

Hagadorn James, p o Seward.

Houck W., p o Hyndsville.

Hynds O., p o Hyndsville.

Klock Sylvester, p o Hyndsville.

Kromer Harrison, p o Cobleskill.

Lain Isaac W., p o Seward.

Letts Chester, p o Cobleskill.

Loucks Henry, p o Sharon Hill.

Markle Lawyer S., p o Hyndsville, hotel proprietor.

Marcey David, p o Hyndsville.

Marcey Frederick, p o Hyndsville.

Marcey William H., p o Hyndsville.

Mosher Edgar, p o Hyndsville.

Murcley Tobias, p o Cobleskill.

Myers John A., p o Hyndsville.

Olmsted Albert, p o Cobleskill.

Osterhout D. H., p o Cobleskill.

Ottman B. E., p o Seward.

Ottman P., p o Lawersville.

Preston J. E., p o Seward, station agent.

Rowley A. W., p o Hyndsville.

Sexton Hiram, p o Cobleskill.

Smith Andrew, p o Seward.

Strail Henry, p o Seward.

Vandewerker David, p o Seward.

Van Dusen Charles, p o Seward Station.

Warner Henry A., p o Seward, miller.

Wingard Albert, p o Seward, miller.

Wright Bros., p o Seward Valley.

Young Adam, p o Hyndsville.

Young Peter, p o Lawersville.

Young Menzo, farmer.

SCHOHARIE.

Bailey Charles, p o Schoharie.

Barley Martin D., p o Schoharie.

Barton Theodore, p o Shutter's Corners, farmer and stock dealer, 700 acres, born in Washington, Dutchess county, October 1, 1795, settled in county February 12, 1818, has been sheriff, supervisor, and assessor; wife Rebecca German, of Stanford, born in 1798, married in 1818; children four—Josiah, born in 1823, Mary A., in 1831, Lucretia in 1833, and Emmett, in 1842.

Becker Myron H., p o Central Bridge, general merchant, owns store, born in Schoharie county in 1854, established in business at Central Bridge in 1878; wife Lydia Bloomingdale, of Albany county, married in 1877.

Bellinger Alexander, p o East Cobleskill, farmer, 116 acres, born in county in 1828; wife Dolly Livingston, married in 1855; children five. Father John N. Bellinger, of Middleburgh, born in 1789, died in 1871, farmer; wife Maria Schell, of county, died in 1833; children six. Grandfather was a Revolutionary soldier.

Bergh Peter S., p o Schoharie, farmer and merchant, born in county in 1812, has been assessor, and railroad commissioner; wife Amelia Dietz, of county, married in 1830. Father David Bergh, born in 1795, died in August, 1879, farmer. Grandfather Abraham Bergh, was a Revolutionary soldier.

Bombeck John, p o Central Bridge.

Bouck David L., p o Schoharie, farmer, 175 acres, born in county in 1812, has been commissioner; wife Della M. Kilmer, born in 1846, married September 5, 1865; children one—John D., born in 1896. Father John D. Bouck, born in Middleburgh, in 1812, died February 12, 1855; wife Maria E. Ang-1, born in 1815, died in 1880; children three.

Brown Albert, p o Schoharie, dealer in hay and straw, born in Albany county in 1822, settled in county in 1847; wife Fidella T. North, of Delaware county, married in 1841; children three—Helen T., Henry A., and Sarah B.

Borst John, p o Schoharie C. H.

Case D. E., p o Schoharie, dealer in furniture, and undertaker, born in county in 1823; wife Mary Jane Mulford, married in 1854, died in 1876; children one—Jennie N.; second wife Charlott Mayham, married in 1876.

Clark Peter S., p o Schoharie, postmaster, born in Schoharie January 26, 1842, owns house and lot; wife Annie M. Crounse of Schoharie, married May 15, 1869; children four.

Couch Charles, p o Schoharie, farmer and agent, born in Schoharie in 18 5.

Couch Smith B., p o Schoharie, farmer 200 acres, born in Dutchess county, in 1811, settled in county in 1841; wife Annie Southerland, married in 1846; children one—Charles. Mrs. Lydia A. Eaton, born in county in 1833, married in 1861; children two—Lee, and Sarah M. Maria Couch born in Dutchess county in 1815, came to county in 1839, retired.

Deyo Philip, p o Schoharie, photographer, born in Schoharie in 1827, has been loan commissioner and town clerk; wife Sarah Brown, of Albany county, married in 1850; children one—Charles A. Father John Deyo, born in Dutchess county in 1790, came to county in 1812, died in 1852, tailor; wife Catharine Shafer, of county, married in 1812, died in 1857, aged 81 years.

Dietz Paul, mason and builder, born in Albany county in May 1813, settled in county in 1831, died June 15, 1880, owned homestead; wife Catharine Best, of Schoharie, born in 1818, married in 1849. Her father David Best, born January 10, 1789, died January 10, 1836; wife Lana Dietz of Schoharie, born in 1791, died February 10, 1871; children living four.

Driesbeck Jacob, p o Schoharie, farmer 80 acres, born in county in 1829; wife Nancy Woodcock of county, married in 1853; children seven. Father Adam Driesbeck of Schoharie, born in 1798, died in 1874; wife Rebecca Sternbergh, of county, born in 1803, married in 1819, died in 1875; children two.

Durand Treat, p o Remington, Jasper county, Ind.

Farquha Arthur H., p o Schoharie, dealer in general furniture and undertaking goods, born in Albany county in 1810, settled in county in 1861; wife Marcia Berger, of county, married in 1846, died in 1875; children three; second wife Ida May Schoolcraft, of county, married in 1878. Business firm of Farquha & Case.

Ferris H. W., p o Schoharie, proprietor of Parrott House, born in Carlisle in 1810, has been trustee of corporation; wife Maggie P. Browne, of Scotland, married in 1867.

Fisher Albert L., p o Central Bridge, dealer in stoves and general house furnishing goods, commenced business in 1866, born in Schoharie in 1838, has been postmaster; wife Vermilia A. Enders, married in 1866, died in 1870; children four; second wife Hattie E. Knickerbocker, of Monroe county, married in 1880.

Guernsey Matthew, p o Howe's Cave.

Grant John B., p o Schoharie, lawyer, 356 acres, born in Gilboa December 28, 1845; wife Augusta K. Grant, of Gilboa, married September 10, 1870; children two.

Guernsey Hiram, p o East Cobleskill, farmer and hop grower, 129 acres, born in Schoharie county in 1814; wife Mary A. Van Wie, of county, married in 1850; children six—Flora L., Leonard, Franklin, Ruby, Rupert, and Arthur. Father, John Guernsey.

Guernsey Giles P., p o Howe's Cave, farmer, 84 acres, born in Middleburgh in 1818; wife Charlotte Cole, of Schoharie, married in 1856; children three—Velmor, Virgil, and Leah. Father, John Guernsey.

Hays Arthur, p o Schoharie, merchant, born April 13, 1848; wife Aurelia Rickert, of Schoharie, married January 14, 1871.

Hollenbeck Nicholas, p o Schoharie, farmer, 180 acres, born in county in 1816, has been assessor; wife Hannah West, of county, born in 1823, married in 1840; children three—Helen, Sophia C., and Martha. Father, Jacob Hollenbeck, of Albany county, born in 1785, died in 1877, farmer; children seven. Grandfather, Nicholas Hollenbeck, settled in Middleburgh from Albany county at an early day.

Hunt A. A., p o Schoharie.

Kilmor Thomas J., p o Schoharie, physician, born in Schoharie in 1823; wife Mina Kilmor, married in 1851; children four. Father, Daniel Kilmor, born in 1800, died in 1861.

Kilmor Jonas, p o Schoharie, retired farmer, born in Columbia county in 1795, settled in county in 1813, has been supervisor; wife Nancy Miller, of county, married in 1816, died in 1840, children nine; second wife Polly Woodworth, born in Albany county in 1801, married in 1842, died July 10, 1877, children one. Father, John Kilmor, of Columbia county, settled in county in 1803, farmer; wife Polly Sipperly, of Columbia county.

Kromer C. C., p o Schoharie.

Larkin John, p o Central Bridge, farmer, 180 acres, born in county in 1827; wife Nancy Enders, of county, born in 1839, married in 1859; children four. Father, Daniel Larkin, of Rhode Island, born in 1790, came to county in 1796, died in 1868, held office of sheriff and elector for president.

Lawyer John W., p o Schoharie, farmer and superintendent of public works, 70 acres, born in Herkimer county in 1825, has been deputy sheriff and railroad commissioner; wife Mary E. Snyder, of county, born in 1827, married in 1856; children two—Ella R., and Philip S. Father, Nicholas Lawyer, farmer.

Lawyer George, p o Schoharie, retired farmer, born in Schoharie in 1807, has been assessor; wife Catharine Vroman, of Fulton, born in 1807, married in 1838; children five—James born in 1811, Charles in 1813, Anna in 1815, Emma in 1817, and Mary born in 1819. Father Jacob I. Lawyer born in county in 1753, died January 16, 1834; wife Mrs. Nancy Spraker, of Montgomery county, born December 15, 1789, married in 1799; children nine, living four. Grandfather Jacob Lawyer of Revolutionary days.

Livingston Lester E., p o Schoharie, farmer 112 acres, born in county in 1814; wife Amelia M. Rich, of Schoharie, married in 1836; children one—Eugene R. Father Benjamin Livingston.

Loucks Peter A., p o Schoharie, carpenter and builder, born in Schoharie in 1818, has been assessor; wife Nancy M. Saffer of county, married September 4, 1844, children six. Father Henry Loucks, born in Montgomery county in 1755, came to county in 1814, died in 1839; wife Katy, daughter of Jacob Snyder of county.

Mayham S. L. and F. M., p o Schoharie.

Mann Ephraim J., p o Schoharie, general custom miller, and proprietor of feed and cider mill, born in Vermont in 1817, settled in county in 1836; wife Sophia Ang of Albany county, married in 1841; children two—Ida and Edward V. Father Thomas Mann, was born in Vermont, came to county in 1860, died in 1877.

Mann Peter J., p o Middleburgh, retired farmer, born in county in 1812; wife Catharine Sternberg, of county, born in 1836, married in 1842, died in 1872; children three—Christina F., Eunice E., and Anna E. Parents Peter and Christina (Snyder) Mann of county.

Mann George W., p o Schoharie, farmer, 110 acres, born in Schoharie in 1811, has been commissioner of highways; wife Perivilla Griffith, of county, married in 1868; children five. Father Jacob G. Mann.

Mereness George E., p o Schoharie, farmer, born in Montgomery county in 1849, settled in county in 1874; wife Helen Bergh, of county, married in 1877; children one Stewart L. Her father David Bergh, born in county in 1797, died in 1879.

Murphy William B., p o Schoharie, county clerk, owns 75 acres, born September 26, 1841, settled in county in 1846, has been justice of the peace; wife Julia E. Swart, married July 31, 1860; children three. Grandfather Timothy Murphy, of Revolutionary memory.

Mix F. G., p o Schoharie.

Norwood Dr. Jacob E., p o Schoharie, physician and surgeon, born in county in 1840; wife Emma L. Norman Smith, married in 1874; children four.

Patrick Jacob H., p o Howe's Cave, farmer and builder, 105 acres, born in county in 1836; wife Gertrude Knis Kern of county, born in 1811, married in 1861; children five.

Rich Charles, p o Central Bridge, farmer and proprietor of hotel, owns 100 acres and hotel, born in county in 1811, purchased hotel in 1850, which had been rebuilt about 1830, by Mr. Smith; wife Salina Warner, born in county in 1818, married in 1841. Father John Rich, born in Dutchess county in 1770, settled in county in 1814, died in 1823.

Rickard Hamilton, wagon and sleigh manufacturer, 45 acres, born in county in 1821, died in 1853; wife Rebecca Mattice, born in county in 1821, married in 1848; children two—Leonard H. and Charles. Father, Leonard Rickard; wife Julia Beecraft, of county, married in 1778. William Mattice, father of Rebecca, born in county in 1771, died in 1848; wife Magdalene Kinehart, of Germany, died in 1829.

Rickard Jacob, p o Schoharie farmer and machinist, 306 acres, born in Wright in 1810, has been supervisor; wife Mina Freddendall of county, married in 1867; children two—Emma and Forrest. Father, George D. Rickard, born in county in 1812, died in 1880, farmer, son of D. G. Rickard.

- Root Orson**, p o Schoharie, retired stage and mail contractor, born in Chenango county in 1811, settled in county in 1831, has been sheriff of county; wife Eliza A. Sweet, married in 1831; children six.
- Schaeffer Jacob H.**, p o Schoharie, retired farmer, 100 acres, born in county in 1808; wife Ann Alida Groosbeck, born in Schoenectady county in 1807, married June 26, 1828; children ten—Hendrick, James, Ann E., Christian H., Mary M., Gertrude, Jacob Henry and Martin Luther, (twins), Gideon and Fannie. Jacob Henry was born in county in 1845; wife Maria M. Becker, of county, married in 1875; children three.
- Schaeffer Martin Luther**, p o Schoharie, farmer, 160 acres, born in Schoharie in 1821; wife Charlotte Landon, born in Vermont in 1836, married in 1851; children eight—Lottie L., C. Hoyt, Jennie L., Frank C., Laura V., Richard C. H., William L. and Marcus A. Father, Christian H. Schaeffer, of county, born March 12, 1782; died July 4, 1862; wife Jane Schaeffer, of Cobleskill, born in 1786, married in 1805, died in 1870; children five. Grandfather, Hendricus Schaeffer, of county, born in 1752, died in 1832.
- Schoolcraft Hiram**, p o Schoharie, proprietor of hotel and farmer, born in county in 1821, has been supervisor and assessor; wife Electa Becker, of county, born in 1831, married in 1851; children one—Mary, born in 1869. Father, John Schoolcraft, born in Wright, October 11, 1789, died November 5, 1862; wife Mary Settle, of county, born in 1790, died in November, 1861; children 6 ur, living two. Grandfather, Jacob Schoolcraft, was a Revolutionary soldier.
- Settle J. H.**, p o Schoharie, general carriage and sleigh manufacturer, born in county in 1821; wife Frances Best, of Columbia county, married in 1836. Father, John H. Settle, born in county in 1802, died in 1878. Grandfather, Henry Settle, born in Albany county.
- Stafford Robert N.**, p o Schoharie, general carriage and wagon manufacturer, born in Vermont in 1821, settled in county in 1845; wife Sarah H. Simmons, of county, married in 1833.
- Sternbergh John**, p o Schoharie, retired farmer, 110 acres, born in Schoharie in 1826; wife Mary Schaeffer, of county, born in 1821, married January 12, 1846; children one—a son born in 1846. Father, Adam Sternbergh, of county, born April 19, 1788, died June 7, 1872; wife Catharine Schaeffer, of county; married October 31, 1808, died May 28, 1865; children living, two. Grandfather, Lambert Sternbergh, born in county in 1757, died July 1, 1829.
- Swart Peter S.**, physician, born in Schoharie July 15, 1801, has been county treasurer; first wife Maria Snyder, married 1821; second wife Eva Eliza Michaels, of Schoharie C. H., married December 14, 1869.
- Vroman Jacob**, p o Schoharie, retired farmer and owner of branch R. R., 250 acres, born in county in 1808; wife Maria Vroman of county, born in 1809, married in 1827; children six—David B., Lucian, Charles, Cornelius P., Peter C., and William J.
- Vroman Peter C.**, p o Schoharie, farmer, 162 acres, born in county in 1818; wife Annie M., daughter of Jacob M. Snyder, born in county in 1847, married in 1869; children three. Father, Jacob Vroman.
- West Jeremiah**, p o Schoharie, farmer, 100 acres, born in Albany county, in 1820, died in 1871, settled in county when quite young; wife Catharine West, born in Sharon in 1822, married in 1845; children three—Mary, Millard, and Addison.
- Widmann George**, p o Schoharie, cigar manufacturer, born in Germany in 1820, settled in county in 1851; wife Theresia Widmann, of Baden, Germany, married in 1851, died in 1866; children six; second wife Catharine Schance, of Bavaria, Germany, married in 1866; children two.
- Wood Francisco**, p o Schoharie, proprietor of hotel, born in county in 1821, has held several county and town offices; wife Rebecca Osterhout, of Albany county, married in 1849; children three—Edwin D., Benjamin R., and Edna.
- Willsey J. D.**, p o East Cobleskill, farmer, 100 acres, born in Albany county in 1814, settled in county in 1832, has been assessor and commissioner; wife Gertrude Livingston, born in county in 1818, married in 1834; children seven—Isaac R., Emma L., Maria, Perry, Malinda, David, and Philip. Father, Abraham Willsey, of Dutchess county, came to county in 1832, died in 1870. Grandfather, Hendrick Willsey, was a descendant of Holland emigrants at an early day, and a Revolutionary soldier.

Williams James O., p o Schoharie.

Younge Daniel, p o Schoharie, farmer, 177 acres, born in county in 1841, has been county commissioner; wife Romeila Landrum, of Schoharie, married March 9, 1872; children one. Father, Smith Younge.

Zeh Joseph H., general custom miller, born in Albany county in 1827, settled in county in 1875; wife Elmira E. Angle, of Albany county, married in 1849; children one—Amelia.

SHARON.

Anthony John, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 82 acres, born in Sharon December 13, 1835, settled on present farm in 1838; wife Kate Button, of Montgomery county, married October 26, 1860; children three—Minnie, Frederick C., and Anna A. Father, Christian, son of Jacob Anthony.

Banta Jacob J., p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 85 acres, born on same farm August 11, 1829; wife Mary M. Stam, of Sharon, married February 23, 1850; one daughter—Grace. Father, Jacob, son of Jacob Banta, of Saratoga county, who settled on same farm in 1801.

Baxter John Dewitt, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 75 acres, born on farm adjoining present one in 1836, has been collector; wife Catharine Vroman, married in 1856. Father, Abram Baxter, was son of John Baxter, the first settler on lot 26.

Baxter Mathias, p o Seward, farmer, 121 acres, born in Greene county, November 27, 1830, settled on present farm in 1857; wife Charlotte E. Strobeck, of Seward, married October 28, 1858; children three—Magdalene E., Hiram S., Anna Maria. Father, John, son of John Baxter.

Baxter Lawrence U., p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 122 acres, born on farm adjoining present one August 2, 1811, settled on last farm in 1851, has been assessor; wife Lydia Emble, married November 13, 1838; children five. Father, Uriah Baxter, came from Montgomery county and settled on farm adjoining present one.

Becker Garret, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 185 acres, born on same farm, has been assessor and inspector of elections. Father, Peter Becker, of Albany county, settled on same farm in 1803; wife Elizabeth Mereness.

Bellinger Henry P., p o Sharon, farmer, 57 acres, born on farm where father lives April 27, 1847, settled on present farm in 1871; wife Mary E. Parsons, married January 5, 1875. Father, Peter H., son of Henry, the son of John Bellinger, one of the first settlers of the county.

Bellinger Peter H., p o Sharon, farmer, 100 acres, born in Seward, February 4, 1820, settled in town in 1848, has been supervisor two years; first wife Maria Hutton; second Melissa Reynolds; children five—Sarah, Henry, Lydia, Elijah, Elisha. Father, Henry Bellinger.

Berger Lewis C., p o Seward, farmer, 248 acres, born on same farm February 21, 1831; wife Alice Strobeck, married in 1879. Mother, Permelia Berger, adopted daughter of David Becker, who lived on farm 50 years, died there in 1872.

Bergh Seneca, p o Sharon, farmer, 120 acres, born in Schoharie December 4, 1827, settled on same farm in 1857; wife Lucinda Lawyer, married in 1850; children three—Jefferson L., Frank, Mary. Father, David, son of Abraham Bergh.

Borst George, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 100 acres, settled on farm in 1862; wife Cornelia DeGraff, married October 11, 1867; children two—Cora M., Clark A. Father, David Borst, born March 5, 1805, son of George, one of the early settlers.

Brown Wm. K., p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 190 acres, born in Montgomery county, February 22, 1845; wife Emeline Houghtaling, married in November, 1872; children two—Frank, and Seward Brown. Parents Daniel and Jemima Brown.

Button Phelps, p o Ames, Montgomery county, farmer, 160 acres, born on same farm August 21, 1834; wife Margaret Ann Voorhees, married in December, 1857; children five—Edwin, Charles, Clarence, Henry, Lula. Father, Mathias, son of Benjamin Button, a soldier in the Revolution.

Borst John H., p o Sharon Hill, farmer, 160 acres, born in Otsego county, in September, 1824, settled in county in 1827; wife Mary Ann Empe; children three, one—Emma—by first wife; second wife Elizabeth Kitts; children—Catharine M., Wesley D. Father, Henry D., son of David Borst, an early settler in Seward.

Borst Luther, p o Seward, farmer, and dealer in musical instruments, 8 acres, born in Seward, November 23, 1813, settled on present place in 1829; wife Gertrude Berger, married in 1863; one child—Alice. Father, Martin, son of George Borst, an early settler.

Borst David H., p o Seward, farmer, 147 acres, born in Sharon, November 9, 1832, has been over-see of poor; wife Gertrude Somers, married in 1861; children two—Adelpha, Howard. Father, Peter G., son of George Borst.

Borst M. L., p o Seward.

Best George J., p o Sharon Springs.

Collins Alexander, p o Argusville, farmer 56½ acres, born in Sharon, October 1, 1841, settled on present farm in 1867; wife Loretta Neville, married in 1867; children two—Julia, Hattie. Parents, Peter and Rebecca Collins.

Collins Peter J., p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 104 acres, born in Sharon, September 28, 1811, settled on farm in 1818; wife Rebecca Ottman, married September 26, 1838; children four—Walter, Alexander, Jeanette, Henry. Father, John, son of Michael Collins, one of the early settlers.

Craig Charles H., p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 113 acres, born in Carlisle, April 30, 1817, settled in Sharon in 1834, has been school commissioner and supervisor; wife Gertrude J., daughter of David Pero, married December 22, 1841; children three—Eleanor M., David L., William H. Father, Redford Craig.

Crounse Henry V., p o Sharon Centre, farmer, born in Albany county, March 25, 1818, settled in county in 1822; wife Charlissa Summers, married in 1841; children two—Wellington, and Alexander. Parents, John and Margaret Crounse.

Coons Alonzo B., p o Sharon Springs.

Crounse Wellington, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 48 acres, born in Albany county May 27, 1815, settled in county in 1832, and on present farm in 1851, was member of Company K, 113d regiment, N. Y. Vols., in Rebellion; wife Lucinda Resseguieu, married in 1865; children three—Anna, Eva, Stanley. Father, Henry V. Crounse.

Dempster William A., p o Sharon Springs, farmer, owns house and lot, born in Albany county October 30, 1832, settled in county in 1859; wife Margaret Wilder; second wife Charlotte E. Stam; children six—George W., Mary J., Harriet O., Mina O., Leonard C., Charles R.

Dillenbeck Yates, p o Argusville, farmer, 204 acres, born in Montgomery county March 27, 1825, settled in county in 1878, has been commissioner; wife Agnes Van Wie, married January 1, 1852; children two—George A., Arie V. Father, George Dillenbeck.

Dockstader Adam A., p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 120 acres, born on present farm March 1, 1820, has been town clerk and justice of peace; wife Sally Winnie, of Cherry Valley, married in 1840; children nine. Father, Adam F. Dockstader, settled on same farm in 1810.

Dockstader Ephraim, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 175 acres, born June 27, 1825; wife Dolly Maria Borst, married in 1855. Father, Marcus, was son of George Dockstader, a soldier of the Revolution.

Dockstader George, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 96 acres, born in Sharon August 25, 1818, settled on present farm in 1860, is railroad commissioner; wife Joanna Simons, married in 1812; children three—Alvin W., H. Francis, Ann Nettie. Father, Marcus Dockstader.

Dockstader Alvin W., p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 106 acres, born in Carlisle April 7, 1844, settled on present farm in 1876; wife Ellen Empe, married in 1867; daughter—Joanna. Father, George, son of Marks Dockstader.

Drake Albert, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 100 acres, born in Cherry Valley in 1818, settled on present farm in 1843; wife Elizabeth C. Nash, married in 1840; children six—Cornelia A., Melvin D., Walter K., Helen E., Albert N., Mary V. Father, Solomon Drake.

Eldredge Robert A., p o Seward, farmer, 5 acres, born in Montgomery county July 26, 1818, settled in county in 1850; wife Anna C. France, of Seward, married July 1, 1838; children two—Watson and Robert. Father, Robert, was son of Robert the son of Barnabas Eldredge, one of first settlers of Sharon.

Eldredge Henry A., p o Sharon Hill, farmer, born on the John Pinder farm November 1, 1812, settled on present farm in 1841, has been assessor nine years; wife Aivina J. Lehman, married in 1855; children four—Duryea B., Elizabeth, Ellen, Van Ness A. Father, Van Ness, was son of Judge Robert Eldredge.

Eldredge Van Ness, p o Sharon, farmer, born in Sharon July 21, 1819, settled on present farm in 1841; wife Margaret E. Moeller, born January 11, 1821, married January 16, 1839; children five—Henry A., Ogden, John M., Hazelions J., Ellen E. Father, Judge Robert Eldredge.

Eldredge Nelson, p o Sharon Centre, farmer and assessor, 100 acres, born in Sharon May 3, 1827, settled on present farm in 1852; wife Philothe T. Miller, married October 4, 1843; children three—William H., Fayette S., Percy C. Father, Seth, was son of Barnabas Eldredge.

Emple Myron O., p o Sharon, farmer, 162 acres, born in Sharon, September 29, 1813, settled on present farm in 1850; wife Emma Kling, of Carlisle, married February 23, 1850; children five—Romeyn, Charles, Edgar, Angie, Louis. Father, Gideon, was son of John Emple.

Emple Philip A., p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 115 acres, born in Sharon, September 24, 1811, settled on present farm in 1841; wife Bettie Van Zant, of Carlisle, married April 3, 1838; children two—Clarence and Clara. Father, John I., was son of John Emple.

Emple Gideon, p o Sharon Hill, farmer, 375 acres, born on same farm January 31, 1816; wife Susan Kilts, married November 24, 1840; children five—Sophie E., Myron O. L., Martha H., John J. Father, John I. Emple.

Emple Leander, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 130 acres, born in Sharon February 28, 1810, settled on present farm in 1856; wife Elizabeth A. Fritcher, married November 26, 1841; children seven. Father, David Emple, was son of Adam Emple, one of early settlers in Sharon.

Emple Dewitt C., p o Seward, farmer, 106 acres, born on same farm April 26, 1816; wife Kate A. Borst, married June 21, 1841; second wife Julia A. Atkins, married June 30, 1880; children one—May Ethel. Father, Peter Emple, settled on same farm about 1830, was son of Peter Emple.

Engell Moses, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 135 acres, born on present farm September 26, 1811; wife Lucinda Empe, of Sharon, married in 1840; children seven. Father Peter Engell, died in December, 1853. Came from Albany county in 1799, built the first grist-mill in 1812, built a new mill in 1822. Moses Engell built the present mill in 1869.

Engell Peter J., p o Sharon Springs, farmer 80 acres, born in Sharon December 23, 1824, settled on present farm in 1866; wife Nancy E. Hinds, of Seward, married in 1847; children ten. Father Joseph Engell was son of Peter Engell.

Fethers Daniel, p o Sharon Springs, proprietor of hotel, and has been in same business thirty years, born in Schenectady, February 4, 1807, settled in county in 1818, had been deputy sheriff two terms, constable sixteen years, and collector; wife Laura Adams, married October 4, 1829; children four—Charles B., Margaret E., Daniel L., and Ogden H. Parents Aaron and Betsey (Wadsworth) Fethers.

Foland Darwin, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 91 acres, born in Sharon, December 21, 1835, settled on present farm in 1872; wife Sarah Winnie, married October 17, 1853; one daughter—Alice Hone. Father Philip Foland, born in Sharon, where he still resides.

Fonda Andrew M., p o Sharon Springs, grain farmer and hop grower 230 acres, born in Albany county November 6, 1814, settled in county in 1847; wife Catharine Ottman, married in 1843; children five. Parents Jacob I. and Maria (Myers) Fonda, natives of Watervliet, Albany county.

- Frederick P. H.**, p o Cobleskill, manufacturer of spring beds, born in Seward, January 5, 1845; wife Charlotte Empie, of Seward, married January 20, 1861; children two—Clara and Leo. Parents Henry and Nancy Frederick.
- Fritcher David**, p o Sharon Centre.
- Ganer Christian**, p o Sharon Springs.
- Gardner John H.**, p o Sharon Springs, one of the proprietors of Pavilion, senior member of firm of J. H. Gardner & Sons, who own 120 acres of land; born in Troy, June 11, 1813, settled in county in 1813; has been candidate for Congress; first wife Julia Jaques; second wife Almada T. Landon; children six. Parents, George and Christina Gardner. Prior to coming to Sharon Springs, Mr. Gardner was proprietor of the City Hotel on Broadway, which was for fifty years the principal hotel of New York city.
- Gardner John H. Jr.**, p o Sharon Springs, one of the proprietors of the Pavilion, born in New York city, October 24, 1840, settled in county in 1843, is president of the village; wife Susan E. McClure, married in 1873; children three. Parents John and Julia (Jaques) Gardner.
- Gilbert Eugene**, p o Argusville, farmer, 124 acres, born in Sharon, August 29, 1818; wife Janet Collins, married October 9, 1872. Father Norman, son of Richard Gilbert, of Connecticut.
- Gilbert Edwin**, p o Argusville, farmer, 65 acres, born in Sharon, May 23, 1832, settled on present farm in 1880; wife Melvina C. Schermerhorn, married in 1855. Parents Norman and Jane Ann Gilbert. Grandfather Richard Gilbert.
- Hagadorn Menzo**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, and owner of saw mill, 35 acres, born on part of present farm; wife Charity E. VanSchaick, married October 19, 1861; children two, adopted—Birdseye and Dora. Father Richard, son of Simon Hagadorn, who settled on part of same farm about 1813.
- Hansen Matthew**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 108 acres, born on present farm in 1823; wife Nancy Somers; children three—Marinda, Mary, Lillie. Father Richard Hansen, settled in town about 1845, and settled on present farm in 1813.
- Harper William**, p o Sharon Springs, superintendent of the White Sulphur Spring bath house, born in town September 30, 1840, settled in village in 1855, been interested in bath houses since 1865; wife Julia Like, married in 1861; children two—Addie and Anna. Father George Harper.
- Hiller George P.**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 100 acres, born on same farm August 7, 1827; wife Gertrude M. Race, married in 1848; children four—Charles M., Anna E., Lenora, Fenton. Father John D., was son of David Hiller, one of early settlers of town.
- Hiller Elijah**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 88 acres, born on part of same farm March 17, 1833, has been inspector of election; wife Ellen Lane, married in 1859; children five—Julia T., Gifford H., Frank M., William L., John D. Father John Hiller.
- Hiller Frederick**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer 125 acres, born in Sharon Centre, November 29, 1804, settled on present farm in 1828, has been commissioner of highways; wife Lydia Taylor, married in 1823; children two—Philothethia, and George F. Father, Frederick Hiller, was son of Frederick, who was killed in battle at Oriskany.
- Hilsinger Adam**, p o Sharon.
- Hoffman Marvin N.**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer and hop raiser, 20 acres, born in town November 21, 1854; wife Cythera, daughter of Hiram Hummel, married in 1875; children one—Esty B. Father Barnabas Hoffman.
- Hoffman Marvin**, p o Sharon Centre.
- Hone Garrett**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 180 acres, born in Cherry Valley, January 3, 1819, settled in town in 1829, has been supervisor and commissioner of highways; wife Maria Dockstader, married January 5, 1847; children six. Father, Henry, son of Jacob Hone. Grandfather, Blass, settled on same farm about 1800.
- Hone Jacob**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 200 acres, born in Sharon, January 11, 1821; wife Sarah Eckerson, married in 1852; children two—J. William, and Orrella. Father, Jacob, son of Jacob Hone.
- Horton Avery**, p o Sharon Springs, resident, 190 acres land, born in Cherry Valley, Otsego county, November 19, 1812, settled on present farm in 1837, has been commissioner of highways; wife Elizabeth Canniff, of Albany county, married in 1838. Parents, John and Mary Horton.
- Hyney James S.**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer and assessor, 101 acres, born in Sharon, June 4, 1829, wife Mary S. Empie, married in 1851; children two—Ella V., and Charles A. Parents, George and Margaret Hyney.
- Hyney Richard**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 90 acres, born at Gilbert's Corners, October 2, 1822, settled on present farm in 1856; wife Almira Race; children six. Father, George Hyney.
- Jackson L. H.**, p o Sharon Springs, attorney and counselor, born in Summit, April 4, 1836, settled in Sharon in 1861, has been president of village, and postmaster; wife Jennie Sharp, married June 29, 1864; children two. Read law at Fowler's law school, of Poughkeepsie, and with John H. Salisbury, of Sharon Springs, was admitted to practice in May, 1862, and to U. S. Dist. Court January 31, 1871.
- Jones Delos**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 140 acres, born in Sharon, June 6, 1818, settled on present farm in 1871; wife Libbie Wormoth, of Minden, married in 1871. Father, Benjamin Jones, was first settler on farm, having bought 300 acres in twenty-one deeds.
- Kilts Wesley H.**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 210 acres, born in Carlisle, January 18, 1812, settled on present farm in 1870; wife Mary E. Voorhees, married in 1845; children three—Harvey G., May, Floyd. Father, William, son of John, the son of Adam Kilts.
- Kilts Peter A.**, p o Argusville, farmer, 156 acres, born on same farm. Father, Adam Kilts, was born in Palentine, in 1785, died in 1839; wife Margaret Hel-singer; children three—Peter A., Catherine, Elizabeth.
- Kilts Joshua**, p o Sharon Hill, farmer 80 acres, born on same farm, February 11, 1830; wife Catharine Ball; second wife Mary Borst. Father, Conrad Kilts, son of Adam.
- Kilts George**, p o Sharon, farmer, 85 acres, born on same farm, October 29, 1831, has been overseer of poor; wife Nancy E. Borst, married in 1833; children two—Emmett, and Martha. Father, John, son of Adam Kilts.
- Kilts Daniel**, p o Sharon, farmer, 105 acres, born on same farm, November 7, 1815, has been collector; wife Maria Ball; second wife Nancy Sharp; children five—Daniel F., George H., Edward, Ida, Minnie. Father, Peter, son of Adam Kilts.
- La Grange Leonard**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 123 acres, born on same farm February 13, 1818; wife Lucy Garlock, of Canajoharie, married in 1851; children two—George and Jennie. Parents, Michael and Jane La Grange.
- Lefevre Sifroit**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 36 acres, born in Quebec July 29, 1817, settled in county in 1837, is postmaster; wife Melissa Briggs, of Fulton, married in 1848; children one—Rossell T. Parents, Thomas and Angelique Lefevre.
- Lehman Leander**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer 100 acres, born on same farm February 19, 1837; wife Mary E. Gilborne, married in 1863; children one—Rozell. Father, Peter, Jr., son of Peter Lehman, who settled on farm when it was all woods.
- Lehman Stephen**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 150 acres, born in Sharon December 3, 1821, settled on present farm in 1833; wife Jane Webster, born February 29, 1828, married November 5, 1845; children four—Libbie, Ida, Ella, Bennie. Father, Benjamin, son of John Lehman.
- Lehman Sylvester**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 175 acres, born on same farm May 16, 1811, has been assessor; wife Mary A. Lane, married October 15, 1851; children eight. Father, Benjamin Lehman.
- Lipe Alfred**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, born in Montgomery county June 16, 1837, settled in county in 1857; wife Agnes Elizabeth Baxter, married in 1860; children five. Parents, John A. and Catherine Lipe, natives of Montgomery county.
- Lipe John**, p o Seward, farmer, 125 acres, born in Montgomery county April 6, 1829, settled on present farm March 1, 1868; wife Julia Kilts, of Palentine, married June 14, 1853; children six. Father, John A. Lipe.
- Loucks Daniel**, p o Sharon Hill, farmer and hop grower, 130 acres, born on same farm February 10, 1840, has been justice of peace four years; wife Elvina Dar-row, married March 28, 1867; children five. Father, Isaac, son of Daniel, the son of Peter Loucks, one of early settlers.

- Low Peter F.**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 45 acres, born in Sharon October 19, 1833, settled on present farm in 1865; wife Mary Vroman, married in 1852; children seven. Father, William, son of Peter Low, an early settler.
- Lycker Henry C.**, p o Argusville, farmer 203 acres, born in Montgomery county September 6, 1821, settled in town in 1847, has been supervisor several terms; wife Sally M. Mellick, married September 22, 1846. Father, Captain Cornelius, son of Colonel Henry, formerly a Member of Congress, and a colonel of regiment at Sackett's Harbor.
- Lynk Philip H.**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer 111 acres, born in Columbia county April 28, 1824, settled on farm in 1863; wife Laventia Ward, daughter of Joshua, who settled on same farm in 1794, married November 26, 1851; children one—Martin. Father, Jacob Lynk, a native of Clermont county. Martin Lynk was married March 30, 1875, to Anna Belding; children three.
- Lynk Thomas**, p o Sharon, proprietor of wayside hotel, owns 10 acres land, born in Cherry Valley September 20, 1836, settled in county in 1850, has been assessor; wife Martha Van Valkenburgh, married in 1859; children three—Blanche Isabelle, W. B., and B. T. Parents, Jacob and Christina Lynk.
- Mallette Daniel P.**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer 500 acres, born in Canajoharie, Montgomery county March 9, 1823, settled on present farm in 1829; wife Saloma Hemstreet, married in 1849; children one—Jennie. Parents, Philo and Rhoda (Taylor) Mallette.
- Mereness Gilbert A.**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 130 acres, born on same farm December 12, 1822, has been assessor; wife Agnes Milligan, of Canajoharie, married in 1852; children three—Alice, Harvey, Romine. Father, Abraham, son of Abraham Mereness, who settled on farm in 1786.
- Maloney John**, p o Sharon, dealer in general merchandise, born in Ireland October 15, 1829, settled in county in 1862, is postmaster; wife Mary Crosby, married in 1862; children four—Hattie, Eva, Gracie, Luella. Parents, James and Hannah Maloney.
- Neville Grantler**, p o Argusville, farmer, 160 acres, born on present farm March 28, 1845; wife Eliza M. Hutton, of Cobleskill, married in 1872. Father, John, son of John Neville, a native of Sharon.
- Ottman John W.**, p o Sharon, farmer, born in Seward December 4, 1817, settled in town in 1868; wife Eliza Bellinger, married in 1868; children, five living—Henry, Elizabeth, Ferdon, Jay, and an infant. Father, Peter W., son of William Ottman.
- Ottman Jeremiah**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 56 acres, born in Sharon October 11, 1826, settled on present farm in 1875; wife Mary J. Low, married June 30, 1849; children seven. Father, Peter W. Ottman.
- Ough Daniel**, p o Buel, Otsego county, farmer, 131 acres, born in Minden December 19, 1816, settled in county in 1830; first wife Susan Snyder; second wife Catharine Young; children three—Rufus, Mary, Charles. Parents, Peter, and Mary Ough.
- Pindar John**, p o Seward, farmer, 166 acres, born in Otsego county April 23, 1807, settled in county in 1808, has been assessor, highway commissioner and justice; first wife Angelica Sixty; second wife Mrs. Margaret Eldredge; children five—Elizabeth, Catharine, John S., Helen, Emma. Parents, William and Katie (Becker) Pindar.
- Planck Wesley C.**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 100 acres, born in Sharon November 3, 1829, settled on present farm April 1, 1864; children two—John P., Sanford E. Parents, John and Mary Ann Planck.
- Planck John**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 175 acres, born on same farm January 19, 1813; wife Mary Ann Fritcher, married in 1831, died September 10, 1877; children five. Father, Godfrey Planck, settled on same farm in 1801, was son of Adam Planck who emigrated from Germany previous to the Revolution and settled in Johnstown.
- Planck Thaddeus W.**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 100 acres, born in Sharon July 9, 1811, settled on present farm in 1871, has been inspector of elections; wife Anna E. Lehman, married June 27, 1865. Father, John Planck.
- Pruyn Henry**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, born in Montgomery county October 1, 1812, settled in county in 1861, at d on present farm in 1874; wife Ann Putnam, married in 1835; children two—Abraham P., Frances T. Parents, Francis and Tenet Pruyu. Grandfather, Jacob Pruyu, of Albany.
- Purcell Thomas C.**, p o Sharon Hill, blacksmith, farmer and hop grower, 40 acres, born in Parish Ballagret, county of Kilkenny, Ireland, December 25, 1828, emigrated to New York June 27, 1847, settled in county in 1858, and on present farm in 1871; first wife Caroline Carson, married October 7, 1854; children two—Edmund C. and Anna C.; second wife Sarah Ann Cronk, married May 1, 1859; children two—Thomas C. Jr. and Richard H. Thomas C. received at the international exhibition a medal and diploma, the latter dated September 27, 1876, for the best sample of hops. Father, Thomas Purcell, was born on the old homestead in Parish Ballagret.
- Rase Casper**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 116 acres, born in Columbia county December 9, 1798, settled in county in 1818, has been assessor, commissioner of highways, and commissioner of schools; wife Magdalen Van Valkenburgh, married in 1823; children nine. Father, William, son of Benjamin Rase.
- Ressegieu George F.**, p o Argusville, farmer, 75 acres, born in Sharon June 2, 1838, settled on present farm in 1856; wife Letitia Montanye, of Charleston, Montgomery county, married in November, 1873; children one—Merle. Parents, John and Eva Ressegieu.
- Sauer Christian**, p o Sharon Springs, proprietor of Union Hotel, born in Bavaria, Germany, November 17, 1821, came to New York city in 1843, settled in county in 1856, was First Lieutenant company G, 5th Regiment N. G. S. N. Y.; wife Dorothea Hirschhoff, married in 1870; children seven—Maria, Albert, Matilda, Willie, George, Christian, and Annie.
- Sharp Joseph A.**, p o Sharon, farmer, 151 acres, born in Oneida county August 3, 1814, settled in county in 1830, and on present farm in 1846; wife Maria Wakeman, married in 1842; children five—Mary, Charles, Clara, Eliza, Jedediah. Parents, John and Mary (Wales) Sharp.
- Sharp Peter G.**, p o Sharon Springs, proprietor of Sharon Hotel, also hop dealer and grower, born in town of Sharon, September 4, 1816, has been supervisor and constable; wife Christina, daughter of Marcus Brown; children living four—Mary Jane Jackson, Julia Kilmer, Gertrude A. Smith, and John W. Sharp. Parents John and Eva Sharp.
- Shibley Henry Milton**, p o Sharon, farmer, 81 acres, born in Charleston, Montgomery county October 8, 1833, settled on present farm in 1866; wife Clara Smith, married in 1866. Parents, Henry and Jane (Frank) Shibley, of Montgomery county.
- Simmons Anthony**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 113½ acres, born in Sharon October 29, 1818, settled on present farm in April, 1856; wife Julia Ann Adams, married November 25, 1831; children six. Father, Martin Simmons, cleared farm here among early settlers.
- Smith Lorenzo**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer and lime manufacturer, 18 acres, born in Sharon July 29, 1821, has been overseer of poor; wife Maranda Harper, married in 1842; children ten. Father, Seymour Smith, whose father came here from Dutchess county among the early settlers.
- Snyder George W.**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 106 acres, born in Delaware county February 15, 1829, settled in county in January, 1866; wife Clarissa Campbell, of Otsego county, married in 1850; children three—Duane H., Dorr E., Alonzo. Parents, John L. and Gety Snyder.
- Sommer David**, p o Seward, farmer, 90 acres, born in Sharon October 1, 1806, settled on present farm in 1835; wife Julie Ann Van Slyke, married June 1, 1837; children seven. Father, Nicholas, son of Rev. Peter Nicholas Sommers, who was born in 1709, settled in county in 1742, and died in 1785.
- Staley William H.**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer and assessor, 113 acres, born in Montgomery county August 8, 1819, settled in county April 12, 1833; wife Rebecca Ottman, of Seward, married October 11, 1849; children four—Virginia, Maria A., Wesley, Leslie. Parents, Henry I. and Sally Staley.
- Staley James S.**, p o Ames, farmer and teacher, 90 acres, born in Florida, Montgomery county March 20, 1825, settled in county in 1853, has been commissioner of schools, of highways, and railroad commissioner; wife Ann Eliza Hodge, of Montgomery county, married March 20, 1856; children one—George E. Father, Henry I. Staley.

- Staley Valentine**, p o Ames, farmer 125 acres, born in Montgomery county January 8, 1815, settled in county in 1832; wife Laney Hone, of Sharon, married in 1846; children four—Mary, Henry, Arabella, Charles. Father, Henry I. Staley.
- Staley Alexander B.**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 150 acres, born on same farm April 16, 1836; wife L. Jane Swift, married in October, 1872. Father, Henry I. Staley, bought farm of J. Cady, and settled here in 1882.
- Stevens Edward H.**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 150 acres, born on same farm May 18, 1847; wife Almira Alger, of Canajoharie, married December 29, 1865; children two—Grant and Frank. Father, Edward Stevens.
- Snyder Edward P.**, p o Sharon, farmer, 75 acres, born in Canajoharie May 3, 1843, has been in county in 1877, has been constable; wife Henrietta Buddle, married January 1, 1863; children one—William. Parents, Allen and Lucinda Snyder, natives of Montgomery county.
- Stam David**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 64 acres, born on same farm January 10, 1835, has been collector and excise commissioner; wife Elizabeth Low, of Sharon, married in 1859; children four—Carrie, Jennie, Charles, John. Father, John, son of George Stam, the first settler on farm.
- Stratton Nathan W.**, p o Sharon Springs, merchant, born in Esperance October 12, 1827, settled in town in 1846, has been supervisor two years; wife Anna E. Moeller; second wife, Margaret E. Jones; children one—Ethel. Parents, James B. and Peace Stratton.
- Taylor John F.**, Sharon Springs, mechanical engineer, 160 acres of land, born in England October 2, 1836, settled in county April 1, 1878, having come to America in 1847; wife Mary Catto, of England, married in 1855; children one—Sally C. Parents, William and Elizabeth Taylor.
- Taylor John F.**, p o Argusville, dealer in stock and farmer, 90 acres, born in Sharon July 20, 1821, has been commissioner of highways and assessor; children two—Luther S., and Cora. Parents, Luther and Magdalen Taylor.
- Vanalstine David H.**, p o Sharon Hill, keeper of bees, owns house and lot, born in Sharon October 15, 1835, settled in village in 1875, is justice of peace; first wife Catharine Empie; second wife Louisa Weber; children one—Catharine E. Father, Michael Vanalstine, a native of Albany county.
- Van Schaick Mary**, p o Sharon, milliner, born in Sharon, Father, Joseph W—Van Schaick; wife Betsey Slingerland; children five—Elizabeth, Mary, Catharine, John, Emily.
- Van Schaick J. W.**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 76 acres, born in Sharon October 1, 1818, settled on present farm in 1857; wife Emma H. Canary, married in 1876; children two—Myra W., Maud C. Father, L. G. Van Schaick.
- Van Schaick Alonzo**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 76 acres, born in Sharon March 11, 1816, settled on present farm in 1857; wife Nancy Planck, married in 1871; children two—Ira and Leon. Parents, Leffert and Dorothy Van Schaick.
- Van Slyke David**, p o Sharon Hill, retired farmer, 96 acres, born in Sharon March 7, 1817, settled on present farm in 1819, has been assessor, postmaster, and excise commissioner; wife Nancy Empie, married October 23, 1840; children one—Catharine G. The son, Peter Austin, died October 3, 1852, aged ten years and sixteen days. Father, John L., son of John Van Slyke.
- Van Valkenburgh Cort**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 126 acres, born in Sharon August 25, 1823, settled on present farm in 1825; wife Catharine Winne, of Cherry Valley, married February 28, 1850. Father, Christian, son of John Joseph Van Valkenburgh, an early settler in town.
- Van Valkenburgh Joseph W.**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer and shoemaker, 15 acres, born in Otsego county March 13, 1819, settled on present farm in 1872; wife Frances Smith, married November 21, 1875. Father, George H., son of Christian.
- Van Valkenburgh John J.**, p o Sharon, farmer, 81 acres, born in Sharon October 26, 1841, settled on farm in April, 1873; wife Sarah Bellinger, married in 1865; children two—Seth J. and Arthur S. Father, John J. Van Valkenburgh.
- VanValkenburgh John J.A.** p o Sharon Hill, farmer, 106 acres, born in Sharon January 14, 1822; wife Sophia Smith, married December 23, 1824; children nine. Father, Adam, son of John J. Van Valkenburgh, who was born January 10, 1744, settled on same farm in 1790, died March 28, 1815.
- Van Valkenburgh Jacob**, p o Sharon, physician and surgeon, owns 15 acres land, born in Sharon June 13, 1839, has been notary public, secretary of eclectic medical society of New York, and a censor of twenty-third senatorial district; wife Harriet Moulton, married April 23, 1861. Jacob read medicine with Dr. William H. Parsons and Dr. J. S. Herrick, attended lectures at Blockly medical college, eclectic medical college of Philadelphia, known as the Paine school, commenced practice in Montgomery county in 1862, at Sharon Hill in 1867.
- Van Valkenburgh Joseph P.**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 91 acres, born on same farm February 21, 1806. Parents, Peter and Sarah Van Valkenburgh.
- Vroman Elizabeth T.**, p o Seward Station, farmer, 140 acres, born on same farm August 21, 1836; husband John W. Vroman, of Orleans county; children three—Jessie, Willis, L. J. Father, Nicholas N. Moak, a native of Bethlehem, Albany county.
- Vroman William L.**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer and hop grower, 26 acres, born in New Hartford, Oneida county February 7, 1813, settled in county in 1858; wife Sarah C. Betle, of Carlisle, married April 21, 1881. Parents, Peter and Eliza (Low) Vroman.
- Vroman Low**, p o Sharon Centre, farmer, 152 acres, born on same farm March 24, 1813; wife Irena Dunburgh, married December 16, 1832; children six. Father, Josiah Vroman, settled on same farm when it was all woods, was son of Albert Vroman.
- Vroman Solomon**, p o Seward, keeper of bees, 6 acres land, born in Sharon May 22, 1831, came to present residence in 1845; wife Nancy Relyea, married January 27, 1859; children four—William D., Ella, Anna, Eugene. Father, Nicholas, was a son of Josiah Vroman.
- Ward Joseph**, p o Sharon Springs, farmer, 106 acres, born in Sharon October 2, 1820, settled on present farm in April, 1860; wife Catharine L. Seeley, of Cherry Valley; children one—Estelle. Father, Joshua Ward, settled here in 1794.
- Wessel Isaac**, p o Argusville, farmer, 117 acres, born in Montgomery county October 15, 1809; wife Phoebe Scott, married in 1831; children eight. Parents, Abram and Cornelia Wessel.
- Wood Theodore**, p o professor of music, owns house and lot, born in Kingston, Ulster county April 18, 1843, settled in county in 1878; wife Carrie Brower, married April 21, 1875; first wife Helen A. Van Buskirk; children three—Theodore, Jr., Ora Louis, Ida Iola. Parents, William S. and Catharine Wood.

SUMMIT.

- Allen William**, p o Summit, farmer, 591 acres, born in Summit October 11, 1830, settled on present farm May 2, 1842; wife Jane Wharton, married July 4, 1849; children one—Warren W. Parents, Ezra and Elmira Allen, the former a grandson of Samuel Allen, the first settler in Charlotteville.
- Baldwin Daniel W.**, p o Summit, farmer, 269 acres, born in Summit January 21, 1825, settled on present farm in 1866; wife Margaret E. Payne, married April 19, 1848. Parents, Daniel and Elizabeth (Rifenbark) Baldwin, the former a son of Daniel Baldwin, one of first settlers in Summit.
- Barner Dr. George**, p o Charlotteville, physician and farmer, 10 acres, born in Cobleskill June 20, 1821, settled in town in August, 1867; wife Mary J. Patrick, married February 27, 1841. George studied with Abraham Patrick, attended lectures in Philadelphia and graduated in 1874. Parents, David I. and Christina Barner, the former a son of Joseph Barner, the first settler in Barnerville.

Barger James, p o Summit, merchant and farmer, 80 acres, born in Rensselaer county March 30, 1812, settled in county in 1818, has been highway commissioner, assessor and supervisor; first wife Caroline Judd; second wife Elizabeth Barger, married April 1, 1876; children two—Ediza and Elora. Father, Thomas Barger, an old resident of Rensselaer county.

Beard Jacob L., p o Eminence, farmer, 250 acres, born in Richmondville January 15, 1819, settled in Summit in March, 1860, has been justice of the peace and justice of sessions; wife Polly Wiltsey, of Summit, married May 23, 1840; children seven. Parents, John and Abigail Beard, the former a son of Jacob Beard, the first settler of Beard's Hollow.

Beard Franklin P., p o Summit, physician and surgeon, born in Jefferson November 29, 1832, settled in village in April, 1876, has been coroner of county; wife Alice Chickering, married in 1853; children three. Franklin P. read medicine with Drs. Cornell, Spaulding and Wood, attended lectures at medical department of Albany University, and was graduated from there in 1875.

Brown James H., p o Summit, dealer in hardware and general merchandise, owns 180 acres land, born in Summit November 2, 1838, has been supervisor and member of assembly; wife Julia E. Havens, of Summit, married September 16, 1861. Father, Elisha Brown.

Burrows James L., p o Eminence, merchant and blacksmith, 1 acre of land, born in Guilford, Chenango county February 26, 1817, settled in county in 1866, has been post-master since 1893; wife Fanny Maria Cornell, of Gilboa, married May 19, 1840; children one—Emma Kingsley. Parents, Elijah and Betsey (Smith) Burrows.

Crowe David, p o Summit, farmer 214 acres, born on same farm September 28, 1831, has been supervisor; wife Polly Gallup, married December 31, 1860; children two—Addie, Nora. Father, Francis Crowe. Mother's father, Terpenning Gallup, was one of early settlers in Summit.

Fox Charles, p o Summit, farmer 196 acres, born in Summit December 11, 1828, settled on present farm in 1845, has been highway commissioner, assessor and inspector of election; wife Mary Ann Moot, married November 15, 1851; children eight. Father, James Fox, son of William, who came in town about 1800.

Ferguson, Thomas H., p o Summit, post-master and painter, 30 acres land, born in Summit January 21, 1811, has been notary public. Parents, Thomas and Sarah (Boist) Ferguson, the former a son of Little Ferguson.

Gaige Benjamin W., p o Charlotteville, farmer 140 acres, born in Pennsylvania August 31, 1822, settled in county in 1849; wife Sally Albert, of Worcester, married October 26, 1852; children six; first wife Magdalen VanPatten, was married February 22, 1810. Parents, Abraham and Hannah (Vantassle) Gaige.

Hannals William, p o Richmondville, hop-grower and dairy farmer, 140 acres, born in Ireland May 11, 1827, settled in county in 1861, has been commissioner of highways; wife Jane Burnison, of Otsego county, married April 11, 1851; children seven. Parents, Samue and Mary Hannals.

Harder Willington P., p o Summit, farmer 150 acres, born in Summit December 20, 1829, settled on present farm April 1, 1865, has been highway commissioner and assessor; wife Hannah Jane Payne, of Hudson, Columbia county, married January 1, 1855; children one—George D. Lost one daughter—Gittie M., aged 12 years. Father, Peter I. Harder, was a native of Dutchess county.

Hartwell Miles, p o Charlotteville, farmer 80 acres, born in Summit November 15, 1809, settled on present farm in 1841, has been supervisor; wife Catherine Warner, married February 17, 1842; second wife Caroline A. Ives, married March 20, 1850. Parents, John and Sebee (Osborne) Hartwell. Mrs. Hartwell's grandfather, Levi Ives, settled at Summit four corners in 1806, where Charles Crowe and T. Ferguson live.

Havens C. W., p o Summit, physician and farmer, 225 acres, born in Long Island April 20, 1813, settled in county in 1815, has been supervisor, town clerk and town superintendent; wife Martha Baldwin, of Summit, born in 1816, married October 4, 1838; children four. Charles W. studied at Jefferson with Dr. Boice and finished with Dr. Samuel Wells, of Middleburgh, attended lectures at Castleton, Vermont, and commenced practice in Summit in 1838.

Jackson David C., p o Charlotteville, farmer and nurseryman, born in Schoharie May 27, 1812, settled in Summit in 1816, has been supervisor, justice of peace and postmaster; wife Rosetta Gardner, married June 28, 1845; children five; first wife was Sally Ann Hauer. Parents, David W. and Annie (Carson) Jackson.

Jump Annanias P., p o Summit, merchant, born in Fulton March 19, 1833, settled in Summit December 1, 1853, has been town clerk and justice, was married in December 1854; children six. Father, Annanias, was son of William Jump, who settled in Summit from Greene county in 1810.

Mitchell Peter H., p o Charlotteville, farmer and banker, 130 acres, born in town of Summit February 23, 1812, settled on present farm in 1835, has been railroad commissioner and director of five banks; wife Lucy Robinson, of Otsego county, married October 11, 1831; children six. Father, Harmon, was son of Emanuel Mitchell an early settler on same farm.

Multer Joseph, p o Charlotteville, farmer and owner of saw-mill, born in Otsego county December 22, 1832, settled in county March 25, 1862; wife H. Maria Phinkle, of Jefferson county, married January 15, 1862. Father, Joseph, was son of Dr. Multer, who came from Germany and settled here.

Osborn Eleazer, p o East Worcester, farmer, born in Harpersfield, Delaware county May 1, 1799, settled in county in 1822, has been assessor, highway commissioner and overseer of poor; wife Zilphia Sherman, of Rensselaer county, married in November, 1821; children five. Father, Eleazer Osborn, was a native of Danbury, Connecticut, and a soldier in the Revolution.

Rifenbark Hiram, p o Charlotteville, merchant, owns 1 acre land, born in Summit April 30, 1829, commenced business as a merchant in 1852, has been justice of peace and town clerk; wife Amelia Burnett, of Summit, married March 21, 1861. Parents, Aaron and Mary (Banks) Rifenbark, the former a son of Henry Rifenbark, who came from Columbia county about 1800.

Stickles Eln N., p o Summit, farmer, 101 acres, born in Columbia county August 19, 1804, settled in county in 1840; wife Hannah Mickle, of Fulton, married January 15, 1856. Parents, Nicholas F. and Debora (Jenn) Stickles, the former of whom was a son of Nicholas, a resident of this county, and lived to be ninety-six years of age.

Stillwell Stephen, p o Charlotteville, farmer, 120 acres, born in Charlotteville November 23, 1815, settled on this farm in 1845, has been assessor, supervisor and overseer of poor; first wife Polly M. Phelps; second wife Angelina Hicks, married December 6, 1853; children nine. Father, Samuel, was son of Thomas Stillwell, who came from Dutchess county.

Shafer S. G., p o Charlotteville, printer.

Terpenning James W., p o Summit, farmer and dairyman, 425 acres, born in Summit September 29, 1828, settled on present farm in 1849, has been supervisor and highway commissioner; wife Delaney Neer, of Summit, married April 23, 1858; children five—Jerome, Walter, Everett, Achsa, Jennie. Father, Cornelius, was son of Jacob Terpenning, who was lieutenant under Washington.

Tinklepaugh Alexander, p o Summit, farmer, 280 acres, born in Fulton May 15, 1826, settled in Summit in 1827; wife Delia Ann Snook, married January 12, 1848; children one—Rebecca. Father, Jacob, son of Henry Tinklepaugh, one of first settlers in town.

Tousley Rev. George G., p o Eminence, clergyman, born in Gilboa September 28, 1852, settled in village in May, 1884, is minister in the Methodist Episcopal church; wife Adelaide Thorne, of Conesville, married May 19, 1874; children one—Claude G., who died March 11, 1881. Parents, Albert A. and Esther C. Tousley.

Warner George H., p o Charlotteville, farmer 90 acres, born in Summit March 2, 1828, settled on present farm in 1850. Father, Hiram, son of Peter Warner, who settled in Summit about 1800.

Wharton Robert E., p o Summit, farmer, 300 acres, born on same farm April 11, 1850, has been excise commissioner; wife Mary N. Conroe, of Summit, married December 8, 1874; children two—James and a baby. Parents, James and Mary A. Wharton.

Wharton John, p o Charlottesville, farmer, 98 acres, born in Summit January 28, 1819, settled on present farm in 1851, has been assessor, commissioner, and overseer; first wife Lancy Lape; second wife Prudence A. Lape; children two—Ella Moot and Anna Fox. Father, John Wharton, came from England and settled in Summit about 1803.

Wharton Robert, p o Richmondville, farmer and brick manufacturer, 260 acres, born in Greene county January 14, 1811, settled in county in 1819; brother to Hiram. Father, John Wharton, came from England when sixteen years of age. Wife of Hiram, is Louisa Neer; children one—Clara E.

Wharton William, p o Summit, dairy farmer, 140 acres, born in Summit December 23, 1833, settled on present farm in 1872, has been commissioner of highways; first wife Charlotte Hinds; second wife Valetta Gallup; children one—Foster. Father, Edward Wharton, settled in Summit in 1815.

WRIGHT.

Becker Daniel, p o Gallupville, farmer, 300 acres, born in county in 1829. Father, Jacob Becker, was born in 1782, died in 1867; wife Elizabeth Spatesholts, of county, born in 1788, married in 1809, died in 1878; children thirteen, living nine.

Becker David, p o Gallupville, farmer, 30 acres, born in county in 1799; wife Elizabeth Salisbury, of county, born in 1805, married in 1822; children six.

Becker David R., farmer, 110 acres, born in Wright in 1831, has been assessor; wife Mary Becker, of county, born in 1840, married in 1863; children six. Parents, George and Elizabeth (Hiltz) Becker. Grandfather, William Becker, was born on farm now occupied by David R., which then contained 400 acres, and was purchased before the Revolution.

Becker Gideon E., p o Gallupville.

Becker John W., p o Gallupville, farmer, 102 acres, born in county in 1829; wife Elizabeth M., daughter of Jacob and Hannah Hiltzley, of county, born in 1830, married in 1849; children one—David E. Parents, David and Elizabeth (Salisbury) Becker. David E. was born in county in 1851; wife Julia Sears, of county, married in 1878.

Becker Minor, p o West Berne, farmer, born in county in 1829, has been town collector; wife Elizabeth Sternbergh, of Albany county, married in 1841; children six.

Blanchard Levi, p o Gallupville, farmer, born in county in 1835; wife Cordelia Rider, of county, born in 1840, married in 1862; children three—Ward, Eugene, and Mary B. Parents, Leibus and Rhoda (Duel) Blanchard. Grandfather, Abner Duel, was born in Rhode Island in 1755, came to county in 1797, died in 1857.

Chesebro Sherman, p o Gallupville, farmer, born in Albany county in 1829, settled in county in 1842; wife Sallie Armstrong, of Albany county, born in 1839, married in 1858; children three—Andrew A., Ambrosia, and J. W. Father, Ambrosia Chesebro.

Cullings Peter, p o Gallupville.

Davidson Samuel, p o Gallupville.

Davis Samuel, p o Gallupville, 120 acres, born in county in 1833, has been supervisor; wife Mary Gage, of Tioga county, married in 1856. Father, Peter Davis, of county, born in 1787, died January 15, 1863; wife Margaret Young, of Albany county, born in 1788, married in 1816, died April 15, 1876.

Dearing Elias, p o Gallupville, farmer, 168 acres, born in county in 1820; wife Margaret, daughter of David and Elizabeth Becker, born in 1822, married in 1841; children one—Elmina, born in 1847. Parents, Frederick and Catharine Dearing, born in Dutchess county in 1755, came to county in 1783, died in 1869.

Devos Jacob I., p o Gallupville, farmer, 160 acres, born in Albany county in 1803, settled in county in 1832, has been assessor; wife Polly Tigert, of Albany county, born in 1805, married in 1823; children four—Amos, born in 1828, Catharine in 1837, Elizabeth in 1842, and Morgan in 1846.

Dominic John J., p o Gallupville, farmer, born in county in 1811, has been member of assembly, and supervisor; wife Anna E. Zimmer, born in county in 1813, married in 1833; children two—Eloise and Neil. Parents, Peter and Elizabeth (Campbell) Dominic.

Frink Eugene, p o Gallupville, farmer, 220 acres, born in county in 1842; wife Sarah Flansburgh, of county, born in 1845, married in 1870; children two—Parents, Charles and Maria Frink, of county.

Frink Jacob, p o Gallupville, farmer, 216 acres, born in county in 1828; first wife Harriet Zimmer, of county, married in 1862, died in 1871; children two—Charles and Albert; second wife Sophia Zimmer of county, married in 1872. Father, Charles Frink, owned and run the Gallupville mill previous to 1838.

Flansburg Henry, p o Gallupville, retired farmer, owns and operates a custom and saw-mill on Fox creek, first mill was built about 50 years ago, and the present one a few years since by Gallup & Wheeler, born in Albany county, August 26, 1811, settled in county in 1838; wife Jeanette Rosekrans, of Albany county, married in 1837; children six.

Frink Jabez, p o Gallupville.

Gallup Charles, p o Gallupville, undertaker, born in county in 1842 has been justice of peace and town clerk; wife Christina A. Becker, of county, married in 1861; children two. Father, Thomas J. Gallup, born in Connecticut, came to county in 1813, died in 1836.

Griffeth David O., p o Quaker Street, farmer, 94 acres, born in county in 1811; wife Melissa Harden, of Schenectady county, married in 1867, children four—Ada L., born in 1869, Horace S., in 1871, Florence and Flora (twins) born in 1876. Father, Stephen Griffeth, born in Schenectady county in 1811, came to county in 1838; wife Susan Soules, born in Montgomery county in 1816; children two—Amanda M., born in 1835, and David O., in 1841.

Haverly Theodore, p o Gallupville, farmer, born in county in 1835, has been town collector; wife Nancy Rickard, of county, born in 1841, married in 1860; children three. Parents Jacob I. and Catharine Haverly, the latter a daughter of Ira and Catharine Rickard.

Haverly Jacob I., p o Gallupville, farmer, 340 acres, born in Albany county, June 8, 1809, settled in county in 1816; wife Catharine Rickard, of county, born in 1814, married January 29, 1832; children nine. Father, Christjohn Haverly, of Albany county, settled in county in 1806, died in 1865, aged 77 years; wife, Hannah Haverly, married in 1808, died in 1867, aged 79 years.

Hill John S., p o Gallupville, farmer, 120 acres, born in county in 1830; wife Mary E. Clykeman, born in 1840, married in 1856; children eleven.

Hotaling Dr. John, p o Gallupville, physician and surgeon, was graduated from Albany Medical College in 1863, born in Bethlehem, Albany county, in 1837, settled in county in 1863; wife Selind E. Zeh, of county, born in 1842, married in 1864; children two.

Hunting Fletcher, p o Gallupville, farmer, 90 acres, born in county in 1832; wife Jane VanAuken, of Albany county, married in 1856; children three—Esteban, Viola, born in Illinois, and May L., born in Albany county. Father, Joseph, was son of Joseph Hunting, who was born in Long Island, and settled in county in 1770.

Hunting Ambrose R., p o Gallupville, farmer, born in Wright in 1833, has been school commissioner and supervisor; first wife Amanda Severon, of Albany county, born in 1837, married in 1859, died in 1863; children two—William J., and Edward F.; second wife Melissa Northrup of county, born in 1852, married in 1869; children one—Florence A., born in 1880. Father, Joseph H. Hunting, of county.

Hunting Joseph, p o Gallupville, born in county in 1806; wife Mary A. Chesebro, of Albany county, born in 1811, married in April, 1829; children two—Fletcher and Ambrose R. Father, Joseph Hunting, of Long Island, settled in county before 1800, died in 1845.

Kelsch Jacob, p o Gallupville, general merchant, born in Germany in 1833, settled in county in 1854, has been justice of peace and town clerk; wife Susan Kniskern, of county, married in 1868; children one—George W.

Markham Prof. C. E., professor of music, born in Fulton in 1813. Father Alden Markham, of Otsego county, born in 1817, came to county in 1840, died in 1866; wife Catharine D. Cook, of county, born in 1824, married in 1842, died in 1861; children four—C. E., Asher, born in 1848, Luther in 1851, and Libbie in 1857.

Martin Peter, p. o. Gallupville, farmer, 110 acres, born in county in 1820; wife Melinda Schell, of county, born in 1811, married in 1839; children one—Bertha N. Father, John Martin, born in Albany county in 1800, came to county in 1843, died in 1861; wife Hannah Zimmer, of county.

Mattice James, p. o. Gallupville.

McDonnell Benjamin, p. o. Gallupville, farmer, 13 acres, born in Albany county February 19, 1819, settled in county in 1850; wife Sallie Forsythe, of county, born May 18, 1819, married in 1838; children one—Oliver, born in 1839, is a watch and clock repairer; wife Fannie A. Johnson, of Greene county, married in 1850; children one—Frank J.

Pickard Samuel T., p. o. Gallupville, born in Grafton, New Hampshire, in 1807, settled in county in 1822; first wife Julia A. Jones, died second wife Phoebe Shaffer, of county, married in 1828.

Palmer George E., p. o. Gallupville, born in Albany county in 1811, settled in county in 1864, married February 4, 1858.

Plauk Oliver F., p. o. Gallupville, dealer in hardware and farming implements, born in Wright in 1817, has been postmaster; first wife Emily A. Hubbard, of county, born in 1810, married in 1861, died in 1873, children one—Edwin; second wife Mary West, of county, married in 1873; children one—Kate. Father, James Plauk, born in Greene county, settled in county at an early day, and died in 1871.

Plugh Jacob H., p. o. Gallupville, born in Albany county June 21, 1821, settled in county in 1841; wife Christina McCarty, of county, born in 1820, married January 1, 1842; children two—Granville, born in October, 1853, and John M., born in 1854. Parents, John and Margaret (Lyble) Plugh.

Posson Chester, p. o. Gallupville, farmer, 220 acres, born in county in 1821, has been supervisor and assessor; wife Dorothy Zimmer, of county, born in 1823, married in 1845; children four—Melinda, Emma, Wesley and Etta. Father, Peter Posson, of Dutchess county; wife Ann West, of county. Wesley Posson was born in 1847; wife Sarah, daughter of Lyman Baker, of county, married in 1868; children three—Edwin, Fanny, and Ellis.

Posson Harvey L., p. o. Gallupville, farmer, born in county in 1824; wife Betsey E. Hubbard, of county, born in 1825, married in 1853; children one—Ella. Parents, Rufus and Mary J. (Lemon) Posson.

Rickard George E., farmer, 310 acres, born in county in 1812, died March 19, 1886; first wife Hannah Haverly, died leaving four children; second wife Louisa Snyder, of county, born in 1820, married June 27, 1847; children eight.

Righter William H., farmer, 135 acres, born in Columbia county in 1826, settled in county in 1857; wife Sophia M., daughter of John and Elizabeth Miller, of county, born in 1810, married in 1840; children three—Henrietta, Libbie, and John S. Parents, Stickie and Polly Righter, of Columbia county.

Righter Jonas, p. o. Quaker Street, farmer, 157 acres, born in Columbia county in 1823, settled in county in 1857; wife Elizabeth Hayes, of county, born in 1826, married in 1864; children three—Gertrude, William, and Mary E. Parents, Stickie and Polly Righter, of Columbia county.

Righter John S., p. o. Gallupville.

Schell Daniel, p. o. Gallupville, farmer, 120 acres, born in county in 1811; wife Margaret Steiner, of Albany county, born in 1822, married in 1841, died in 1866; children five. Parents, Peter and Sophia Schell.

Schell David, p. o. Gallupville, farmer, and runs a saw-mill, born in Wright in 1801; wife Hannah, daughter of David Becker, born in 1802, married in July, 1821, died October 7, 1880; children eight, living five—Seneca L., Sophia, Margaret, Malinda, and Maria. Father, Peter Schell. Grandparents came from Germany at an early day.

Schell Simeon, p. o. Gallupville, retired gentleman, born in county in 1831; wife Julia A. Sand, married in 1861; children one—a son. Father, William N., son of Frederick Schell.

Schoelleraft Peter P., p. o. Gallupville, retired farmer, 170 acres, has been member of assembly; wife Christina Becker, of county, born in 1815, married in 1835; children four—Amanda M., Eve M., Sherman M., and Ida May.

Stephens Ira, p. o. Gallupville, stone mason, born in Wright in 1827, has been town collector; wife Alida H. Sheldon, of Schoenectady county, born in 1832, married in 1852; children six. Parents, Eliphalet and Marcia Stephens; children fifteen—of whom Ira was the youngest. Grandparents were from Stonington, Connecticut.

Swann Miner, p. o. Gallupville, farmer, born in Albany county in 1811, settled in county in 1841, has held several town offices; wife Catharine Sawyer, of county, born in 1825, married in 1846; children one—John A., born in 1847. Father, John Swan, of Albany county, born in 1784, came to county in 1841, died in January, 1856; wife Mary Cox, born in 1793, married in 1816; children two—Minor, and Peter born in 1819.

Treddenyer William, p. o. Gallupville, farmer, 96 acres, born in Germany in 1819, settled in county in 1840; wife Margaret Bush, of county, born in 1823; children three—William H., born in 1857, Celia, in 1861, and Elmer, in 1873.

Walden Hiram, Jr., p. o. Gallupville, retired gentleman, born in county in 1828; wife Elvira D. Zimmer, of county, married in 1850. Father, Hiram Walden, was born in Vermont in 1800, came to county in 1805, died in 1880; wife Sophia Dominick, of county, born in 1802, married in 1822.

Weidman Peter L., p. o. Gallupville, farmer, 92 acres, born in Albany county in 1825, settled in county in 1845; wife Edith Hotelling, of Albany county, born in 1820, married in 1841; children two—Daniel, born in 1847, and Albert, born in 1852. Father, Jacob W. Weidman, died in 1861; wife Elizabeth Weidman, died in 1845.

Zeh Dr. Ira, physician and surgeon, born in Albany county in 1830, died in 1872; wife Christina Litebrant, of county, born in 1829, married in September, 1851; children three—Anna M., Lama, and Edgar. Peter and Elizabeth (Zeh) Litebrant, parents of Christina.

Zeh Alfred, p. o. Gallupville, general custom miller, born in Albany county in 1835, settled in county in 1850; wife Rebecca Holenbeck, of county, married in 1862; children two—Minnie, born in 1861, and Clarence, born in 1873. Mill is located on Fox's creek, 12 1/2 stories, 40 by 10 feet, has four run of stone, 75 horse power, and is a first-class mill.

Zimmer Peter F., dealer in stoves, tin, and hardware, born in county in 1825, has been town clerk; first wife M. J. Chamberlain, of Rensselaer county, married in 1857, died in 1865; children one—a daughter; second wife Anna F. Zeh, married in 1870.

Zimmer John G., farmer, 200 acres, born in county in 1802; wife Margaret Baessler, of county, born in 1791, married in 1825; children five, living two—Elvira and Lavinia. Great-grandfather, Jacob Zimmer, was born in Germany, settled in county at an early date, and was the owner of Lawyer and Zimmer patent.

Zimmer John J., p. o. Gallupville, farmer, born in county in 1825; wife Christina N. Zimmer, of county, married in 1841; children six. Parents, John and Elizabeth (Schoelleraft) Zimmer. Christina was daughter of Adam P. and Catharine Zimmer.

Zimmer John A., p. o. West Berne, farmer, 117 acres, born in county in 1827; wife Harriet Houghtaling, of county, born in 1825, married in 1842; children three—Rebecca, Minor G., and Ada. Minor G. was born in 1858; wife Evalina Zimmer, born in 1861, married in 1880.

Zimmer Jacob N., p. o. Gallupville, farmer and horse farrier, born in county June 30, 1814, has been justice of peace and justice of sessions; wife Leah, daughter of David and Elizabeth Rickard, born in 1818, married in 1835, died November 11, 1861; children thirteen, living twelve. Father, John Jost Zimmer, born in county in 1781; wife Magdalene Warner. Grandfather, Adam Zimmer, was a Revolutionary soldier.

Zimmer Minor, p. o. Gallupville, farmer, 230 acres, born in Wright in 1832, has been collector of town; wife Hannah E. Becker, of county, born in 1835, married in 1853; children two—Austin V., born in 1855, married Emma Marsellis, of county; and Massford. Parents, John W. and Catharine Zimmer.





